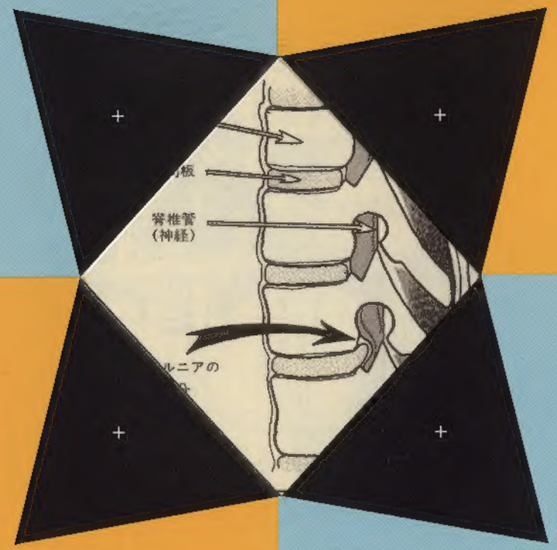
Black Jack



Osamu Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 11

BLACK JACK [TEZUKA]

VOL.11

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //



"BLACK JACK is the most memorable anti-hero in comics memory. Readers will loathe his greed even as they're awed by his weird yet consistent ethical system. Implicit in Black Jack's surgical accomplishments is a critique of socialized medicine." —LAS VEGAS CITYLIFE

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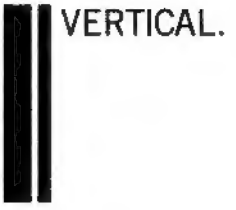
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Black Jack

Volume 11

Osamu Tezuka



Production—Glen Isip
Maya Rosewood
Christine Lee

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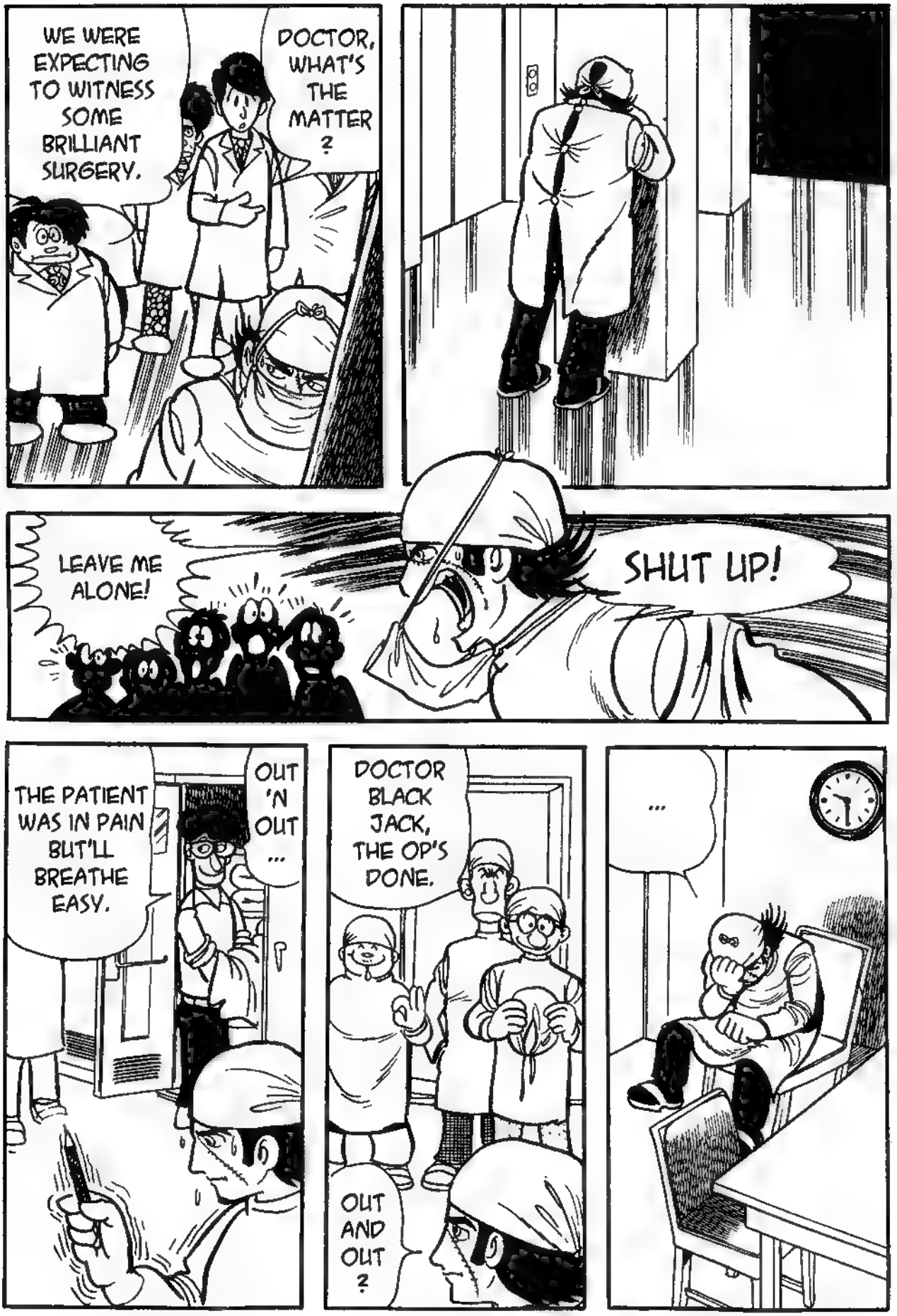
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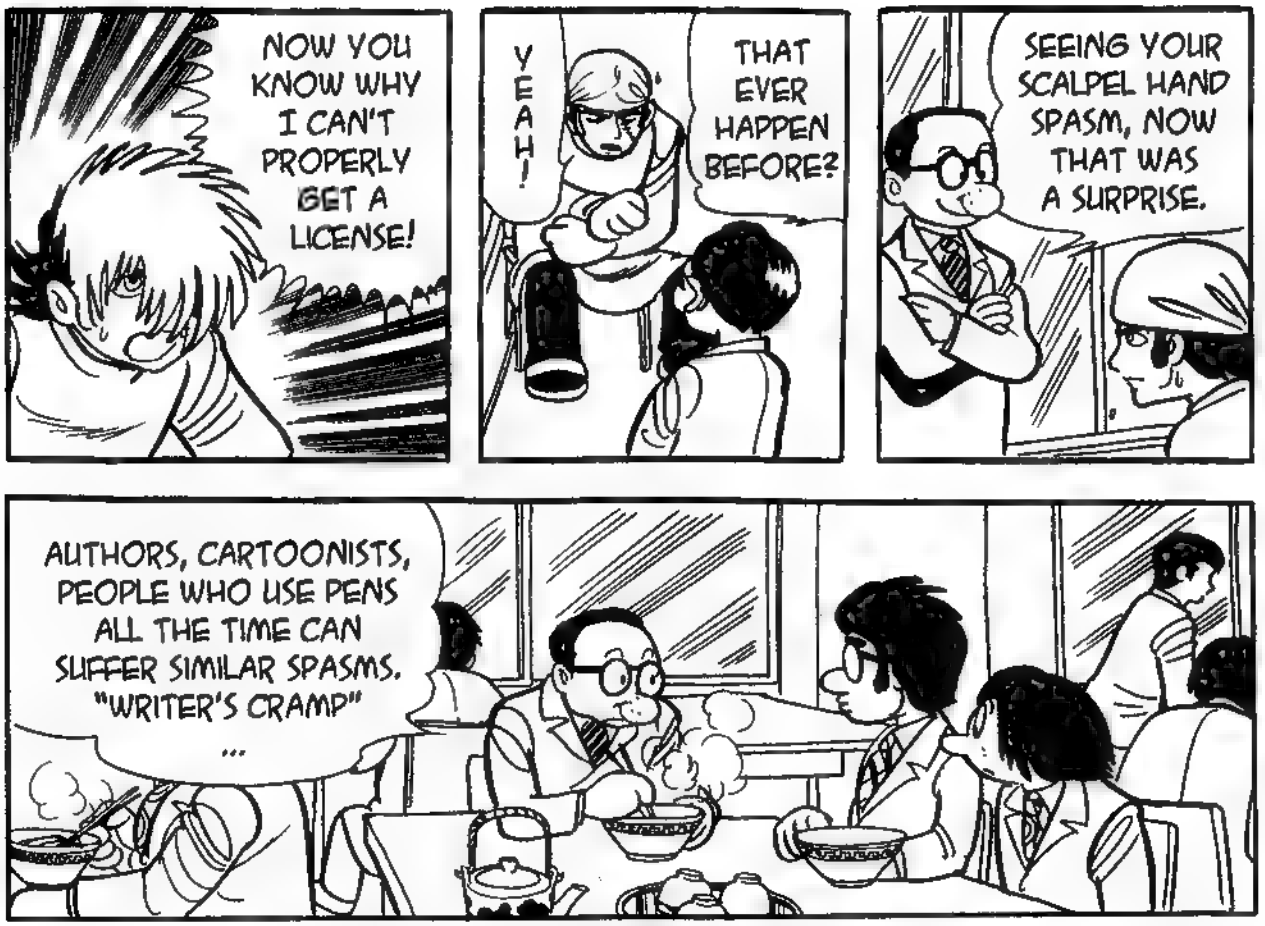
SPASM

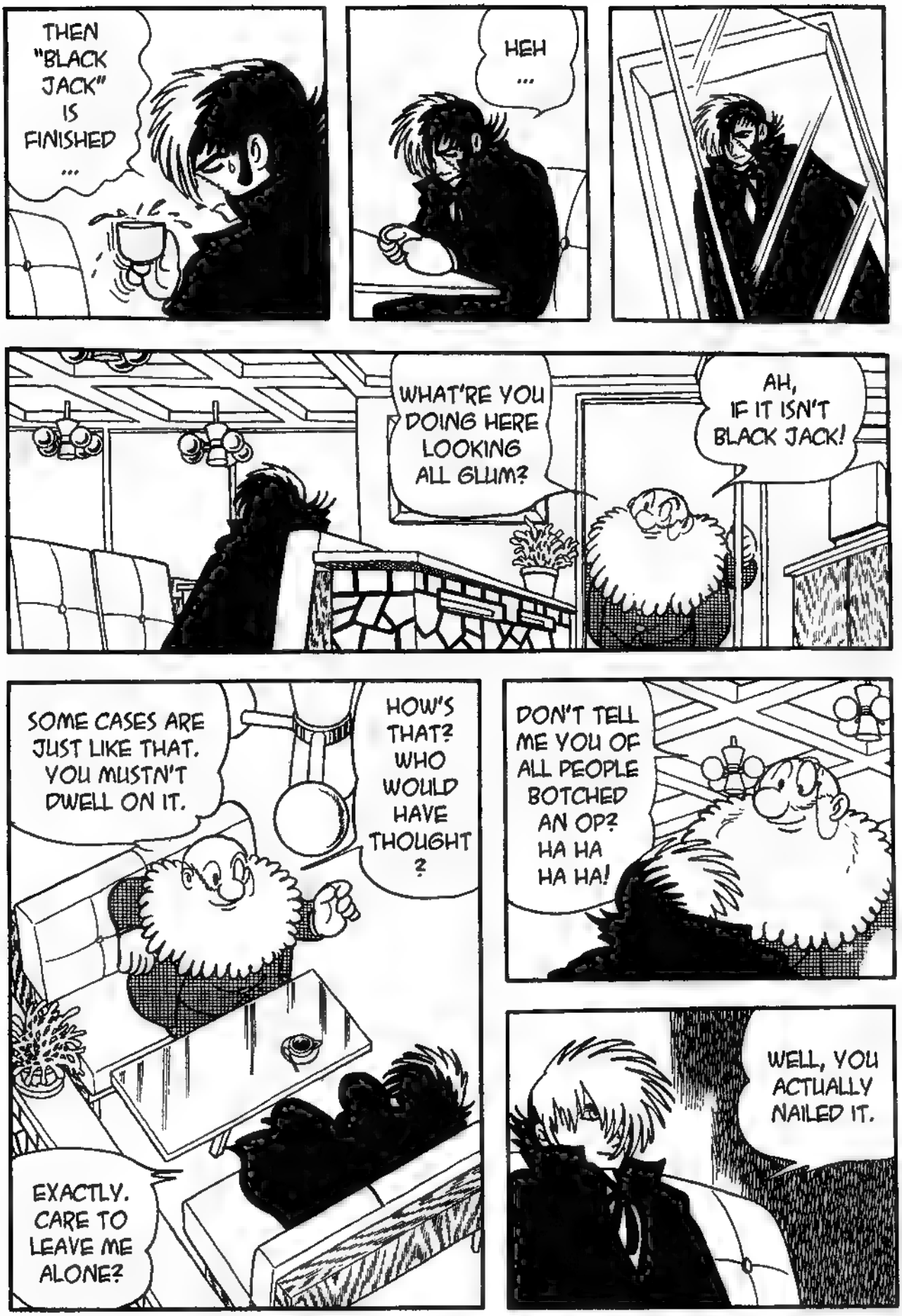

CLEAR THE AREA AROUND THE ARTERY CARE-FULLY.
READY KELLY FOR-CEPS.
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK ...
KEEP UP DRAINING.
SCAL-PEL!
DRAIN
CEASE
NOW, DOUBLE-LIGATE THROUGH KELLY.
CLEARED


UNHH
DAMMIT ...
WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR?
HIS HAND !
R-RESUME DRAINING ...


I'M GOOD. CEASE DRAIN.
FSSSSS
...
...
YOU, TAKE OVER THIS OP FOR ME!
PROCEED JUST AS I INDICATED ...

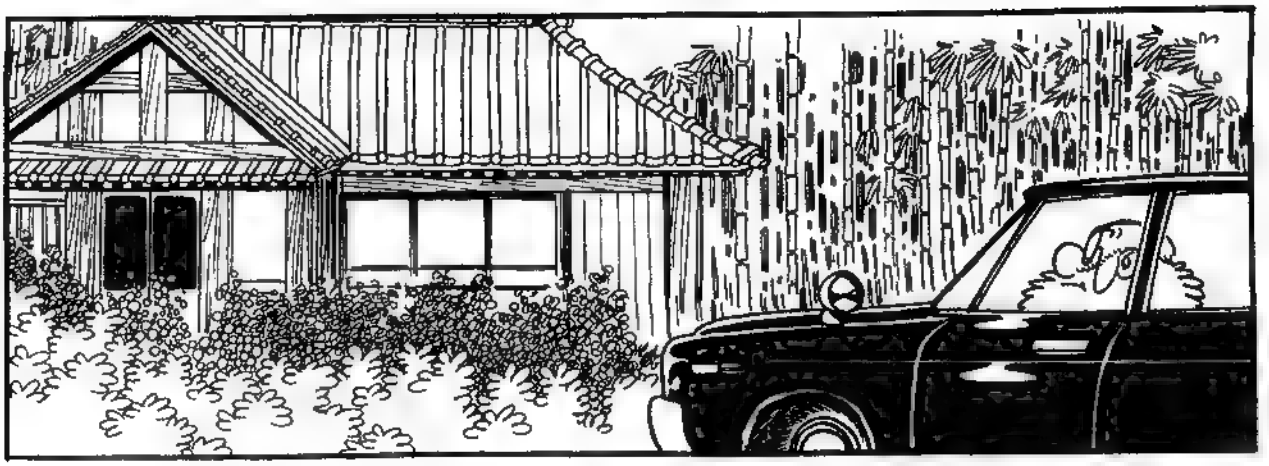

WE WERE EXPECTING TO WITNESS SOME BRILLIANT SURGERY.
DOCTOR, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
LEAVE ME ALONE!
SHUT UP!
THE PATIENT WAS IN PAIN BUT'LL BREATHE EASY.
OUT 'N OUT ...
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, THE OP'S DONE.
OUT AND OUT?
...


NOW YOU KNOW WHY I CAN'T PROPERLY GET A LICENSE!
YEAH!
THAT EVER HAPPEN BEFORE?
SEEING YOUR SCALPEL HAND SPASM, NOW THAT WAS A SURPRISE.
AUTHORS, CARTOONISTS, PEOPLE WHO USE PENS ALL THE TIME CAN SUFFER SIMILAR SPASMS. "WRITER'S CRAMP" ...
BLACK JACK'S CASE COULD BE A SURGEON'S VERSION OF THOSE FITS.
IF SO, HIS CAREER'S AT RISK.


THEN "BLACK JACK" IS FINISHED ...
HEH ...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE LOOKING ALL GLUM?
AH, IF IT ISN'T BLACK JACK!
SOME CASES ARE JUST LIKE THAT. YOU MUSTN'T DWELL ON IT.
HOW'S THAT? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ?
EXACTLY. CARE TO LEAVE ME ALONE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU OF ALL PEOPLE BOTCHED AN OP? HA HA HA HA!
WELL, YOU ACTUALLY NAILED IT.

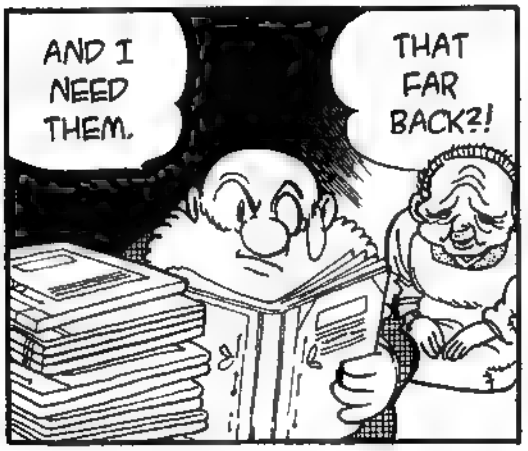

YES. A CASE OF VALVULAR PNEUMO-THORAX.
HELLO, TEZUKA? DID BLACK JACK PERFORM ANY OPERATIONS AT YOUR HOSPITAL?
HIS SCALPEL HAND STARTED TO SPASM.
HUH ?!
SPASMS
AND WHAT HAPPENED ?
SPASMS, HUH? HOW WAS HE TAKING IT?
I HAD TO TAKE OVER. I'D BROUGHT IN JUNIOR STAFF TO OBSERVE HIS BRILLIANT SURGERY. A FIASCO!
OBSERVERS
HE TURNED PALE. IT PAINED HIM...


NO GOOD !
TAKE OVER FOR ME PLEASE ...
SPASMS AGAIN !
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? HE CAN'T OPERATE.
ERROR
...



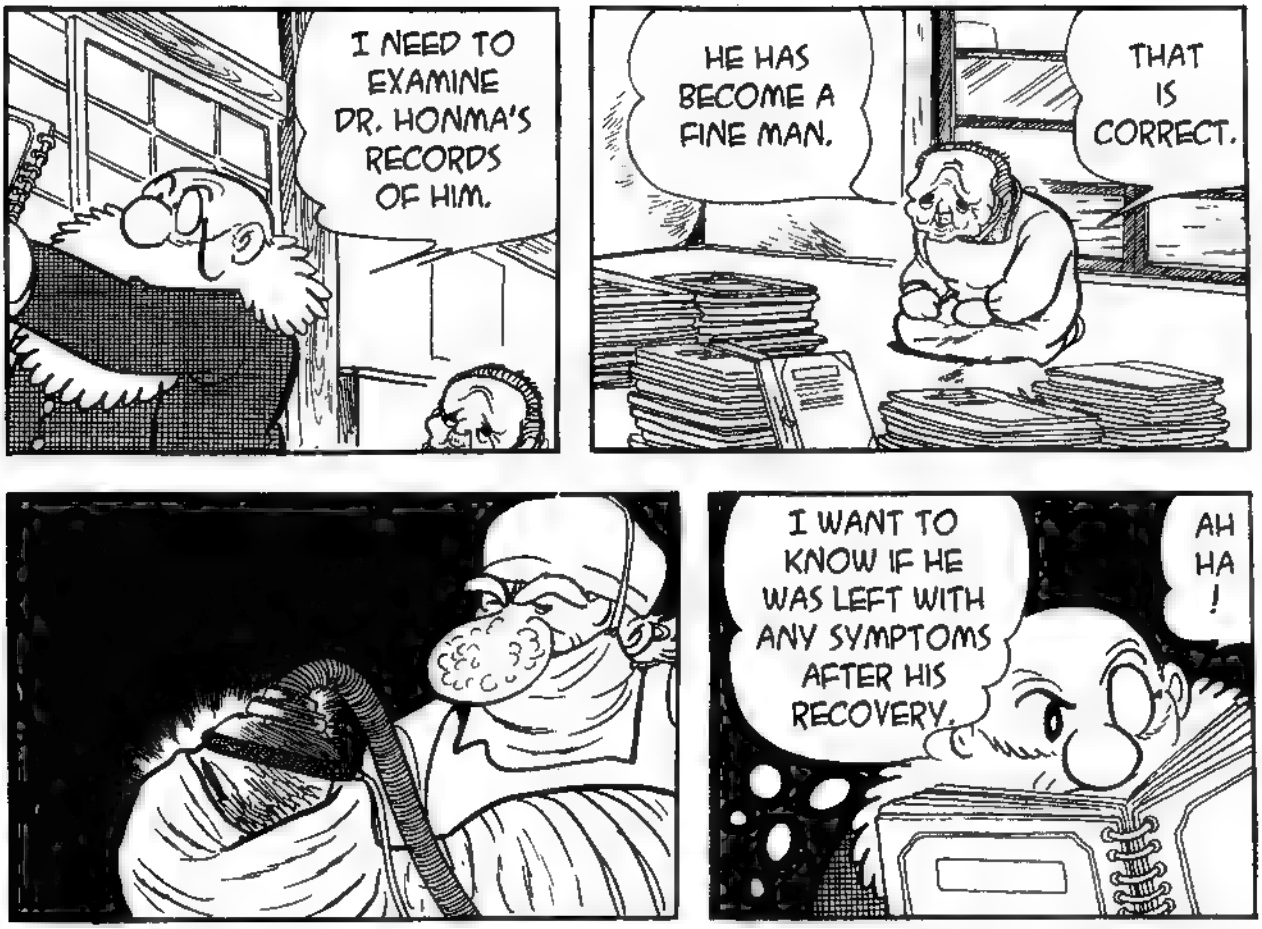

ARE DR. HONMA'S RECORDS STILL IN HIS STUDY?
IF I MAY,

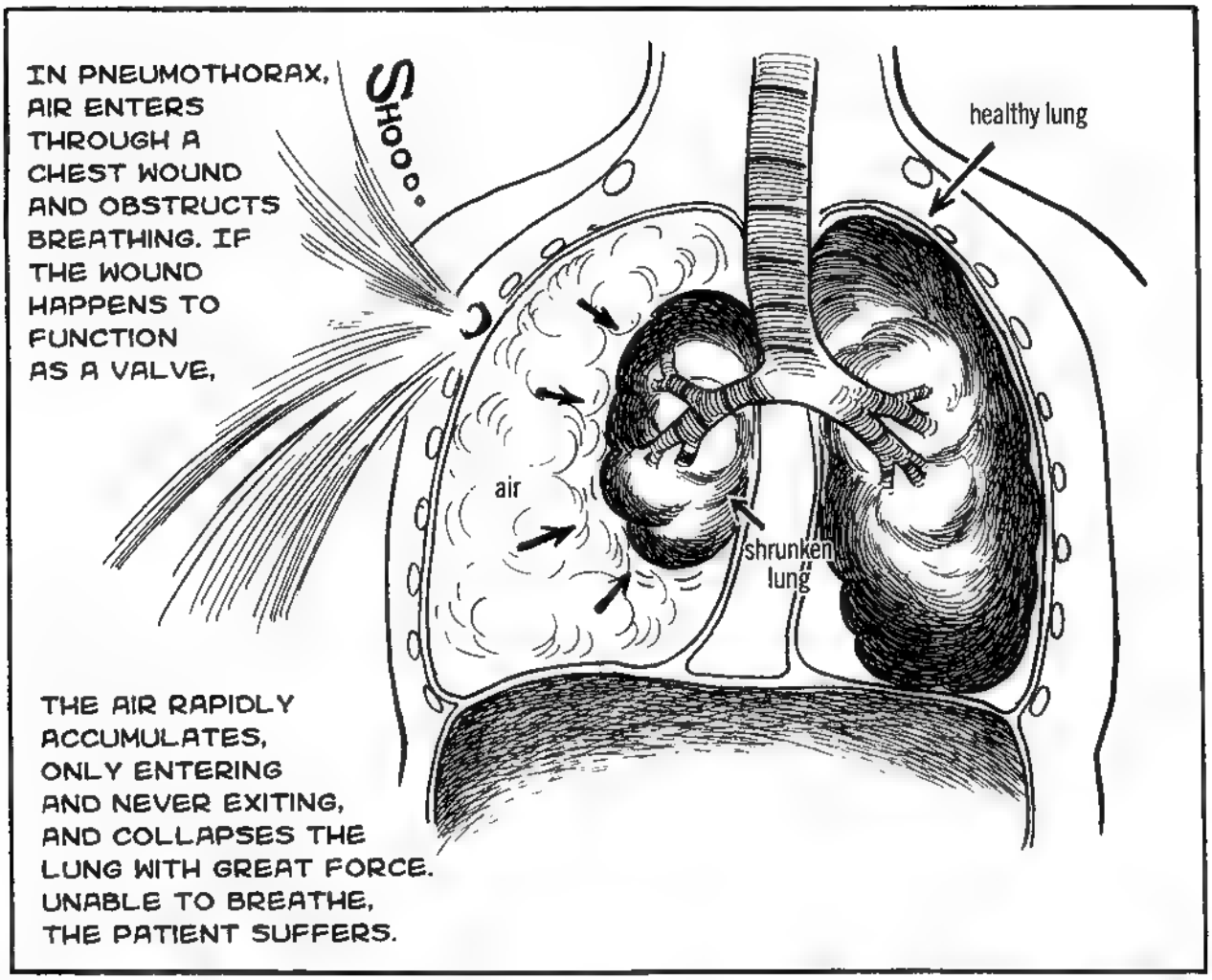

OH, DR. YAMADANO OF BARE-BONES U. LONG TIME NO SEE.

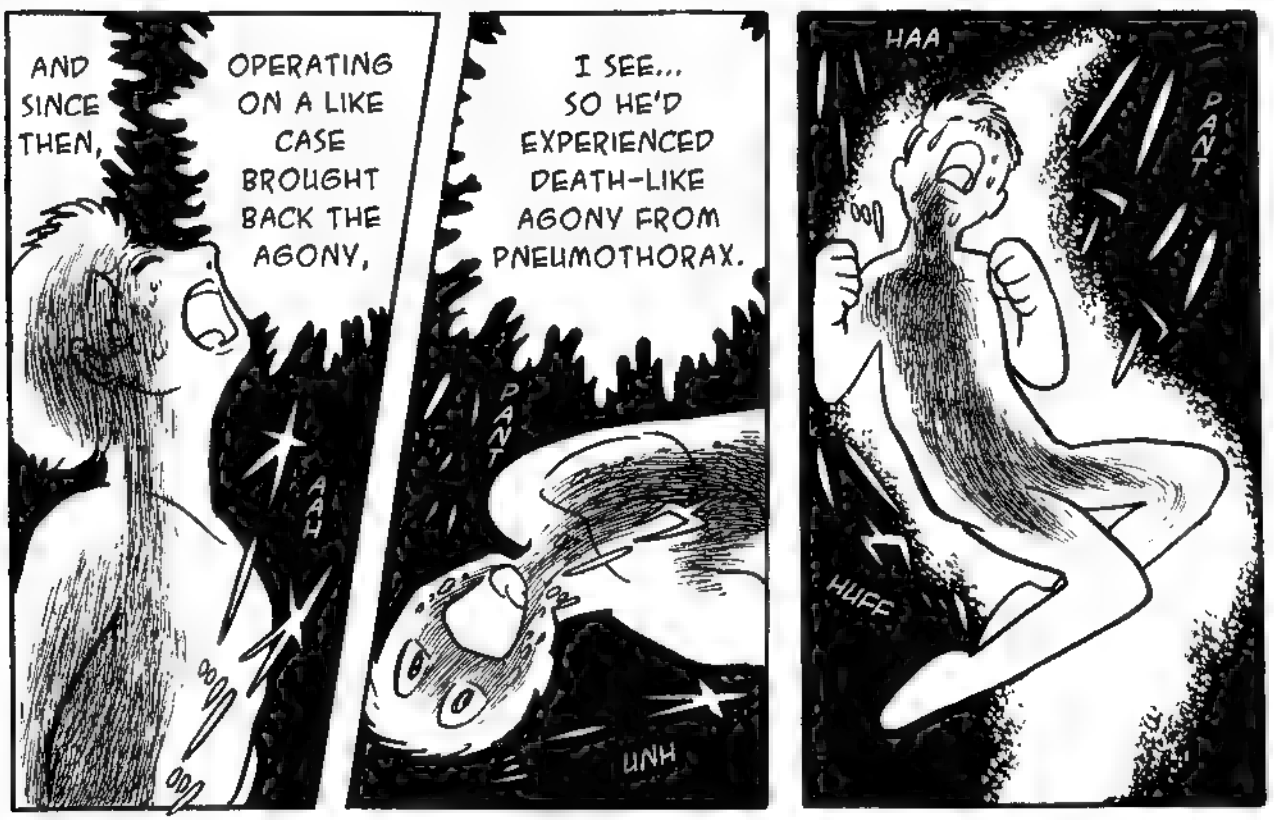

AND I NEED THEM.
THAT FAR BACK?!

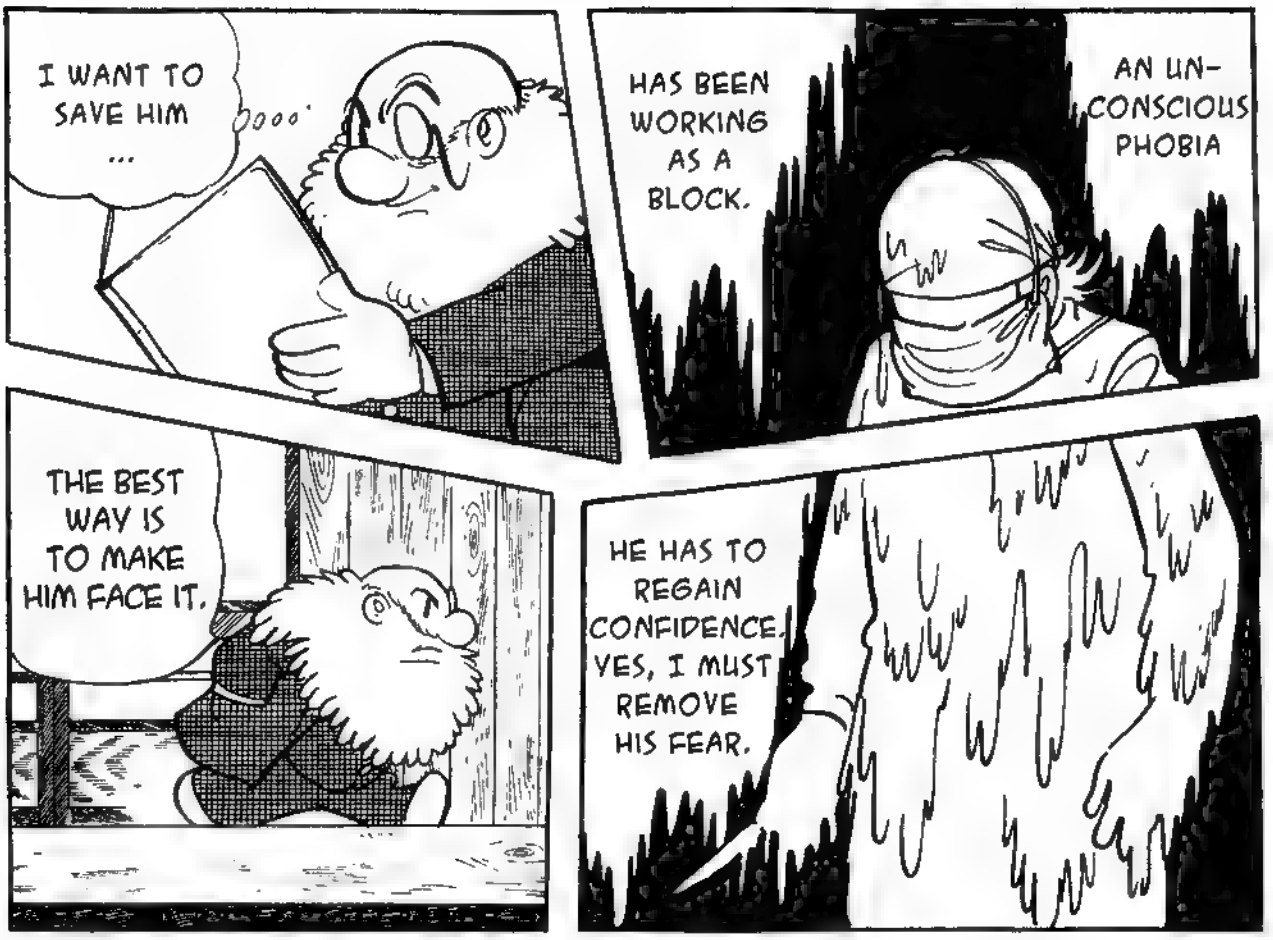

YEARS AGO, THERE WAS THIS BOY DR. HONMA WAS IN CHARGE OF ... BLACK JACK.

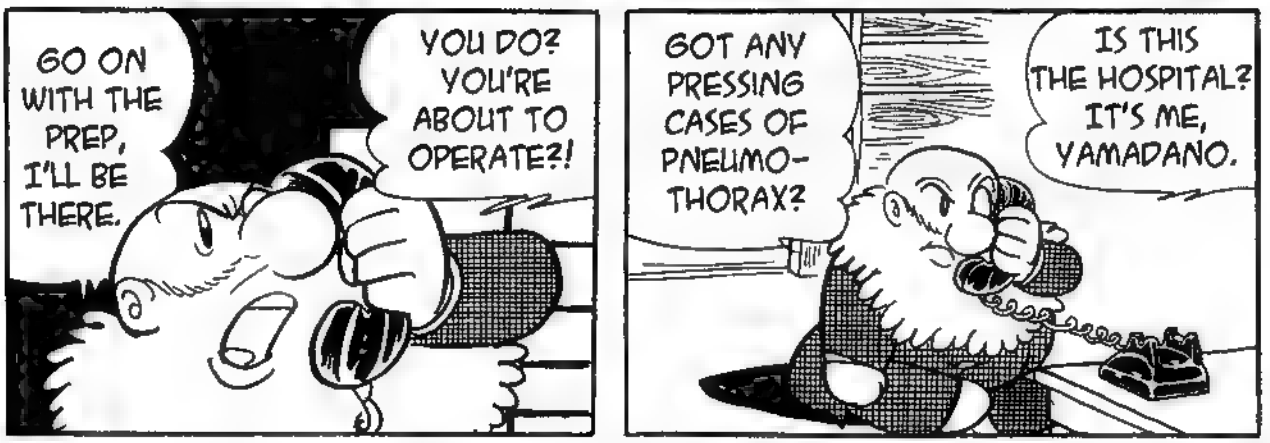

DR. HONMA WAS VERY METICULOUS. HE RETAINED DECADES-OLD CHARTS, I HEAR.
EVERY WORD THE MASTER PUT DOWN SHOULD BE IN HERE.

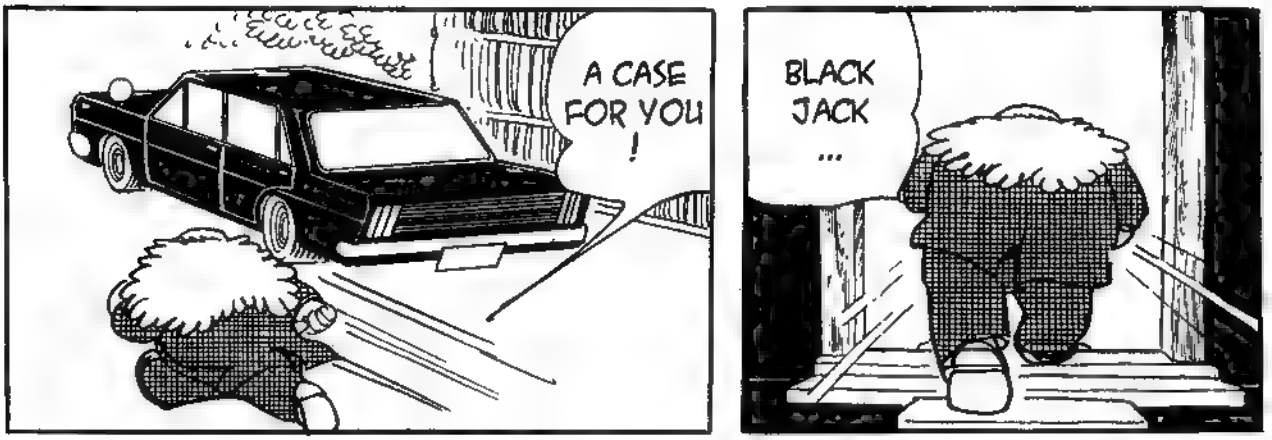

I NEED TO EXAMINE DR. HONMA'S RECORDS OF HIM.
HE HAS BECOME A FINE MAN.
THAT IS CORRECT.
I WANT TO KNOW IF HE WAS LEFT WITH ANY SYMPTOMS AFTER HIS RECOVERY.
AH HA !
HE HAD DYSPNEA DUE TO OPEN VALVULAR PNEUMO-THORAX.
THE BOY WAS BADLY INJURED. SKULL, FACE, LIMBS CRUSHED, ORGANS DAMAGED.

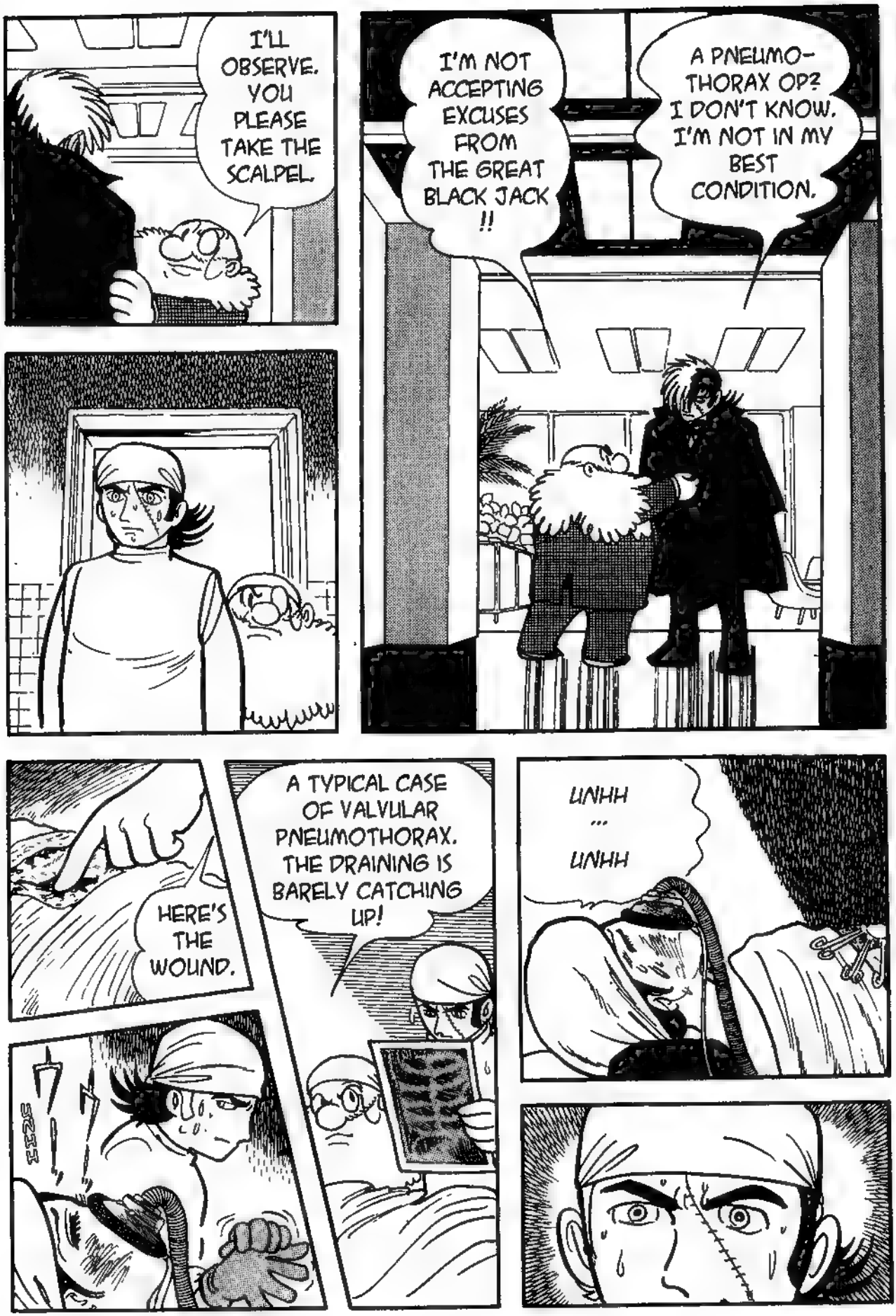

IN PNEUMOTHORAX, AIR ENTERS THROUGH A CHEST WOUND AND OBSTRUCTS BREATHING. IF THE WOUND HAPPENS TO FUNCTION AS A VALVE,
SHOOO
healthy lung
air
shrunken lung
THE AIR RAPIDLY ACCUMULATES, ONLY ENTERING AND NEVER EXITING, AND COLLAPSES THE LUNG WITH GREAT FORCE. UNABLE TO BREATHE, THE PATIENT SUFFERS.

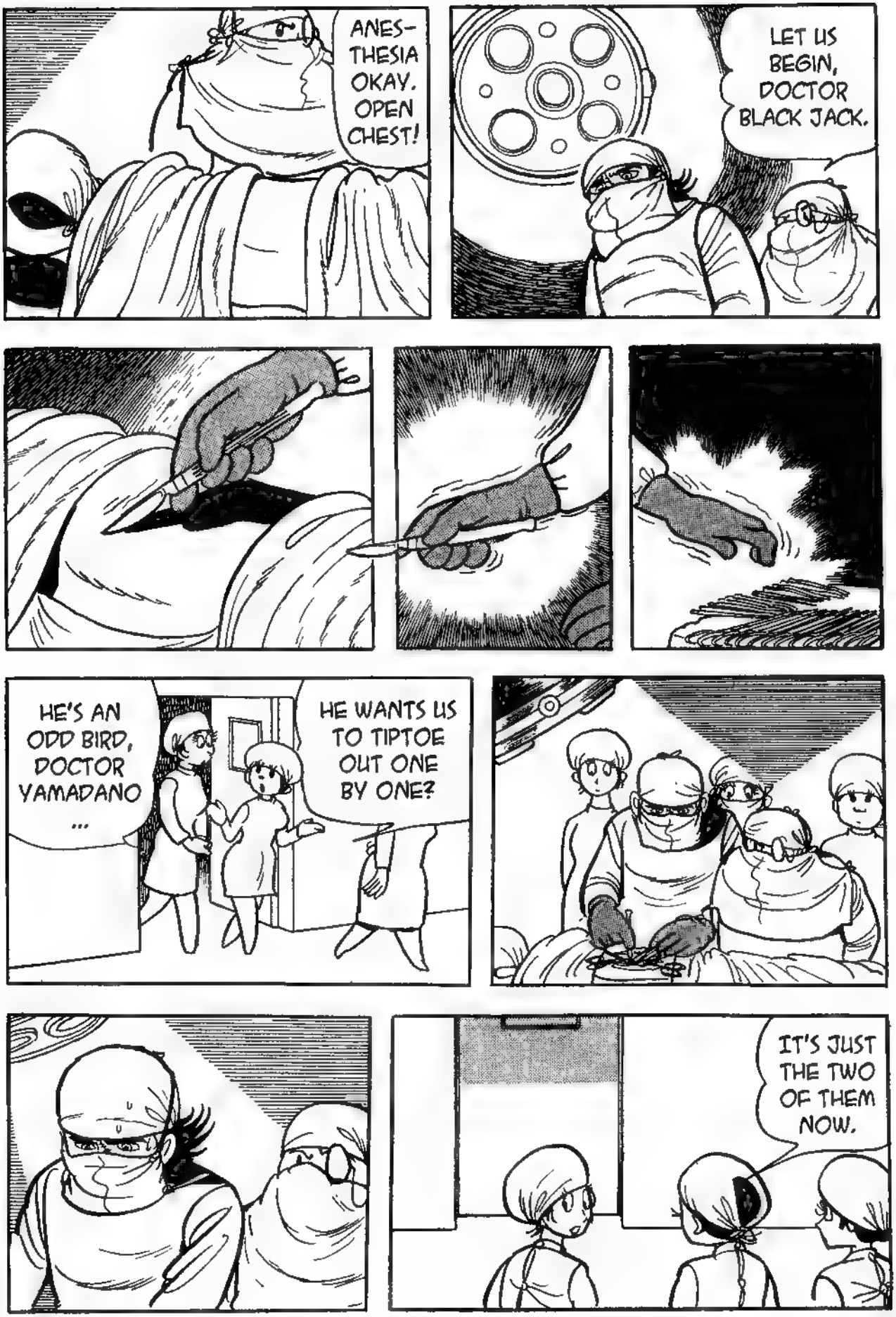

AND SINCE THEN,
OPERATING ON A LIKE CASE BROUGHT BACK THE AGONY,
AAH
I SEE... SO HE'D EXPERIENCED DEATH-LIKE AGONY FROM PNEUMOTHORAX.
PANT
UNH
HAA
PANT
HUFF

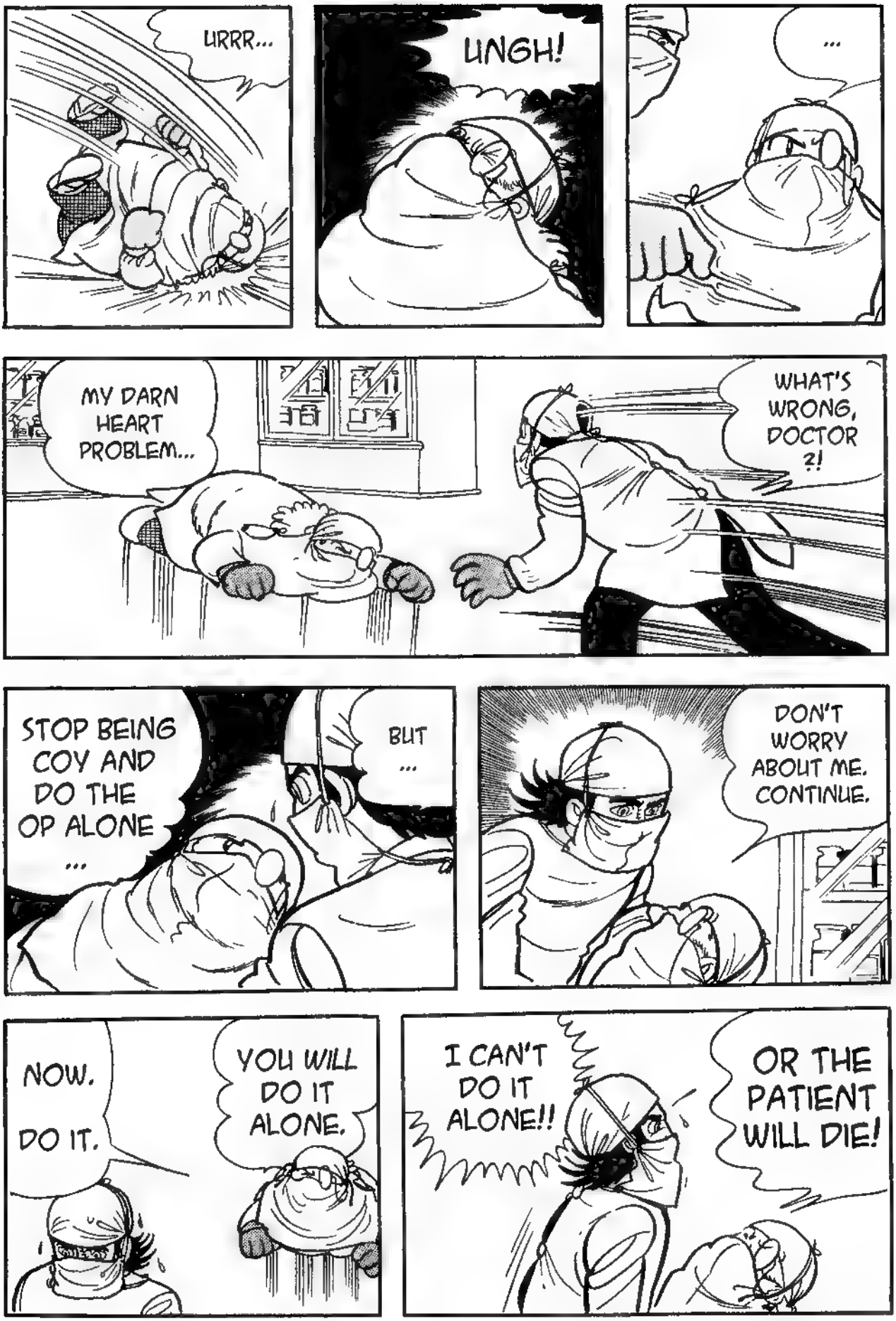

I WANT TO SAVE HIM ...
HAS BEEN WORKING AS A BLOCK.
AN UN-CONSCIOUS PHOBIA
THE BEST WAY IS TO MAKE HIM FACE IT.
HE HAS TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE. YES, I MUST REMOVE HIS FEAR.


GO ON WITH THE PREP, I'LL BE THERE.
YOU DO? YOU'RE ABOUT TO OPERATE?!
GOT ANY PRESSING CASES OF PNEUMO-THORAX?
IS THIS THE HOSPITAL? IT'S ME, YAMADANO.


A CASE FOR YOU !
BLACK JACK ...

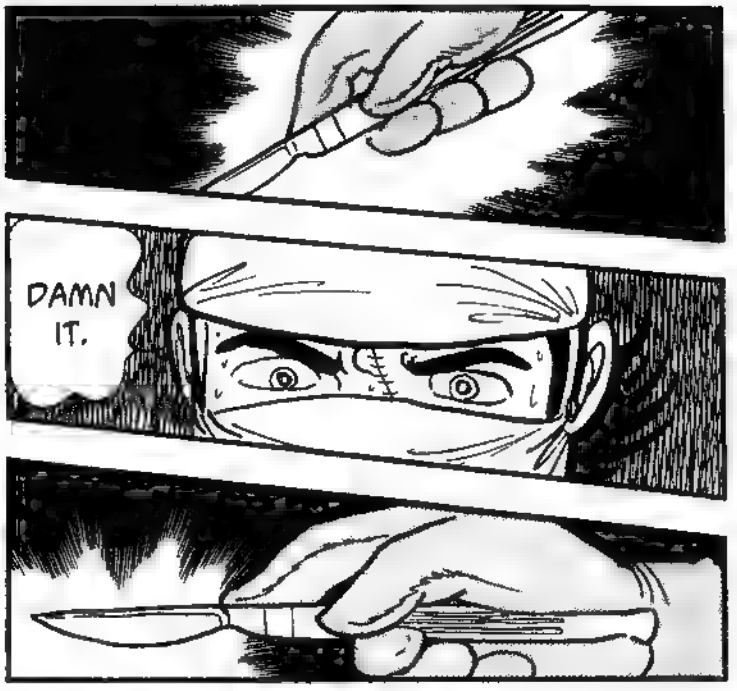

I'LL OBSERVE. YOU PLEASE TAKE THE SCALPEL.
I'M NOT ACCEPTING EXCUSES FROM THE GREAT BLACK JACK !!
A PNEUMO-THORAX OP? I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT IN MY BEST CONDITION.
HERE'S THE WOUND.
A TYPICAL CASE OF VALVULAR PNEUMOTHORAX. THE DRAINING IS BARELY CATCHING UP!
UNHH ... UNHH
SIZZLE


ANES-THESIA OKAY. OPEN CHEST!
LET US BEGIN, DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
HE'S AN ODD BIRD, DOCTOR YAMADANO ...
HE WANTS US TO TIPTOE OUT ONE BY ONE?
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF THEM NOW.


URRR...
UNGH!
...
MY DARN HEART PROBLEM...
WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR ?!
STOP BEING COY AND DO THE OP ALONE ...
BUT ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. CONTINUE.
NOW. DO IT.
YOU WILL DO IT ALONE.
I CAN'T DO IT ALONE!!
OR THE PATIENT WILL DIE!


...


SUE YOU AS A RANK AMATEUR !!
IF YOU LET THE PATIENT DIE, I'LL SUE YOU, Y'HEAR ME ?


DAMN IT.

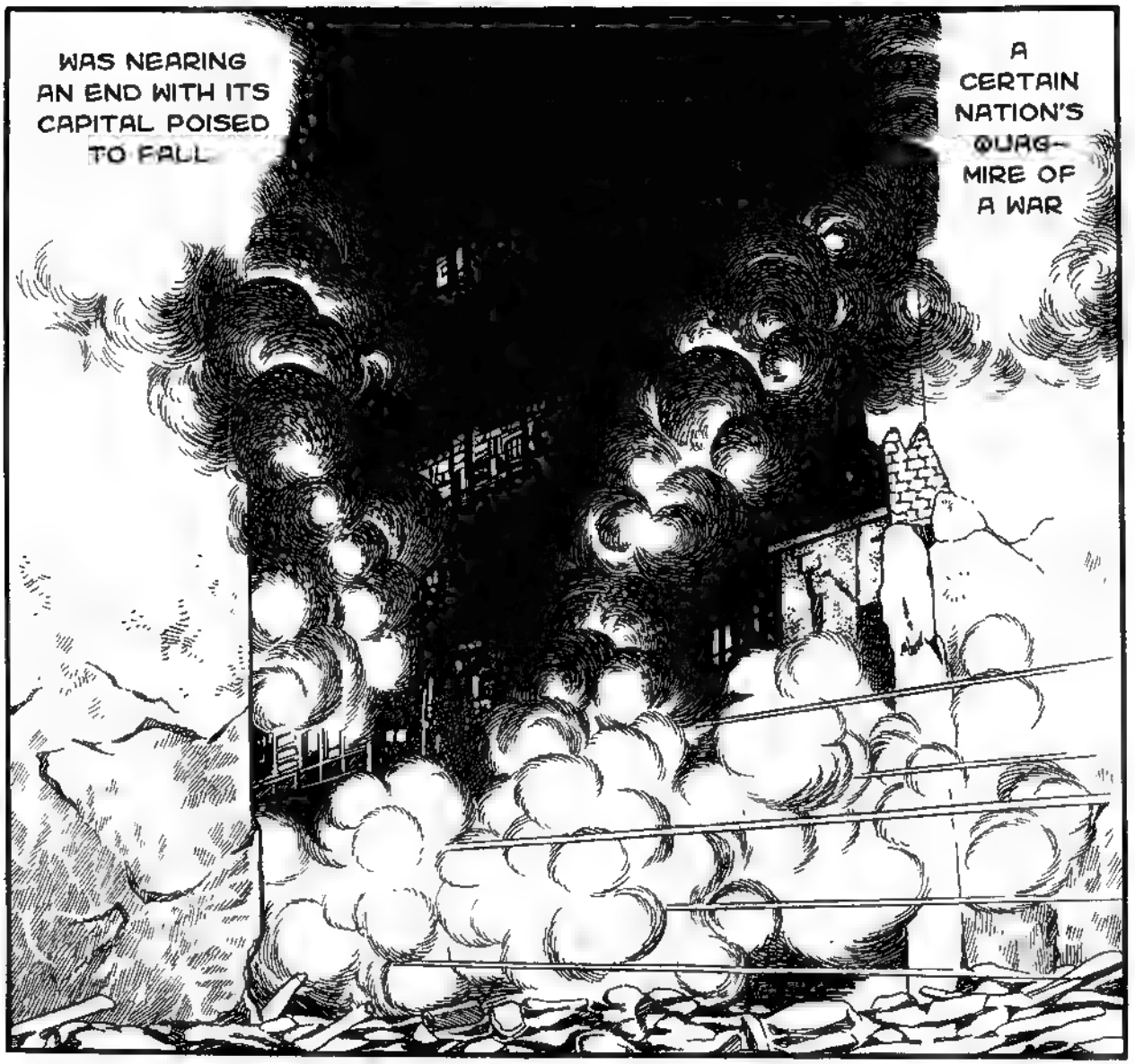


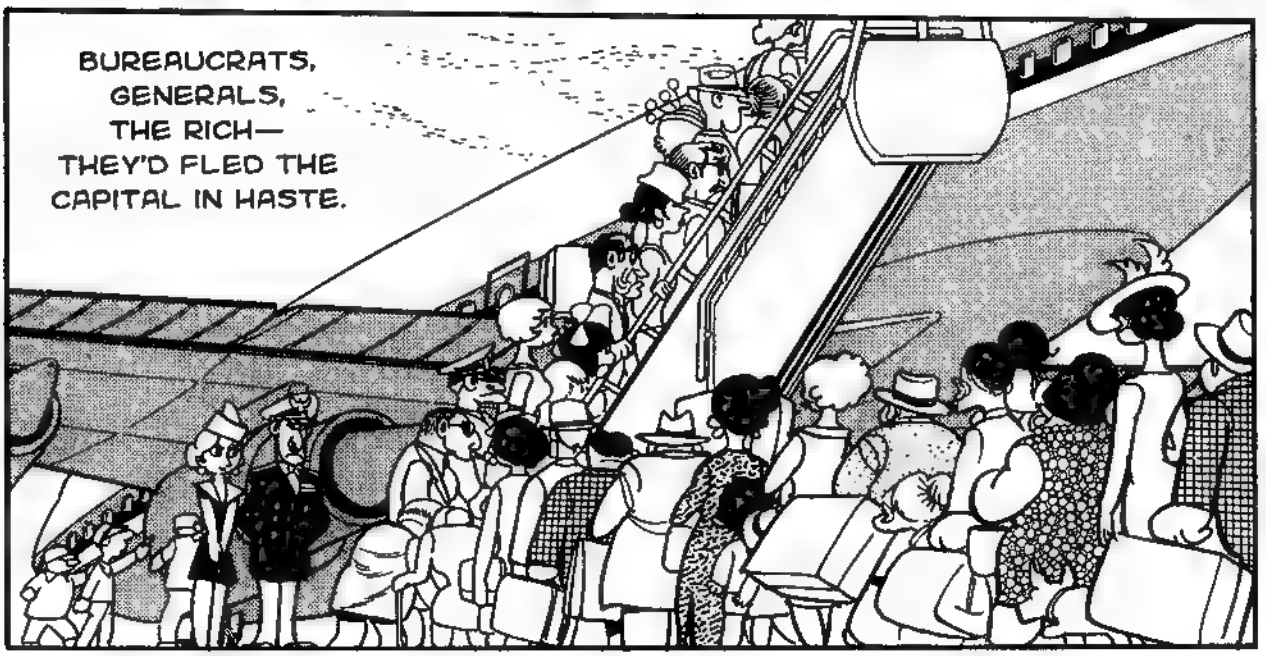

AN AMA-TEUR !


DAMN IT


YOU GREEN SLOW-POKE,
DOCTOR, I... I DID IT !
DONE !
DOCTOR. YOU'VE CURED ME OF AN ILLNESS.
YOU PULLED IT OFF ON YOUR OWN. "BLACK JACK" FINISHED? PSHAH!
I WON'T HAVE THAT.
I'LL MAIL YOU YOUR FEE.
GLAD FOR YA.

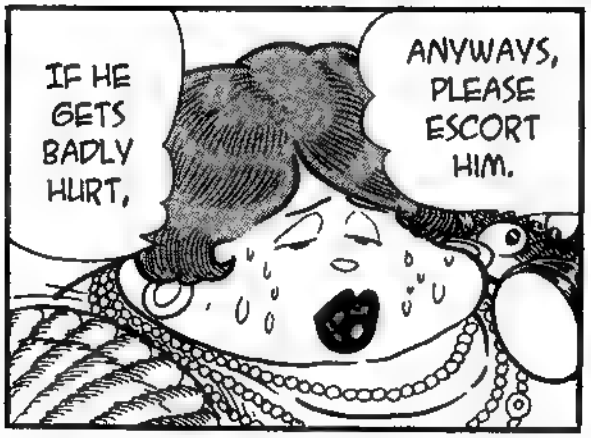
SMITHEREENS

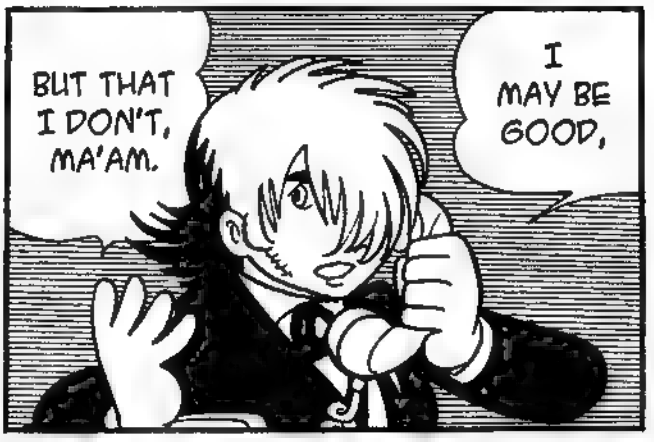

WAS NEARING AN END WITH ITS CAPITAL POISED TO FALL
A CERTAIN NATION'S QUAG- MIRE OF A WAR


BUREAUCRATS, GENERALS, THE RICH— THEY'D FLED THE CAPITAL IN HASTE.

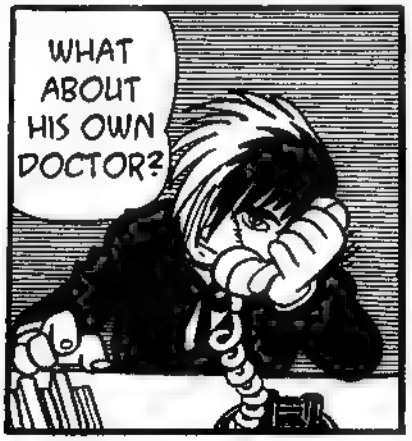

THE FIRST LADY, WHO'D ESCAPED TO EUROPE WITH ALL HER JEWELS,
SECRETLY CALLED BLACK JACK FROM HER SWISS PERCH.
← POTATO
REFU-GEES AND WAR OR-PHANS WERE LEFT BEHIND.
MA'AM, DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT NUMBER?
I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A BODY-GUARD.
PLEASE PROTECT MY HUSBAND! HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER!


IF RUMORS ARE TRUE, YOU EVEN REVIVE THE DEAD.
OF COURSE I DO. YOU'RE A FAMOUS SURGEON.


IF HE GETS BADLY HURT,
ANYWAYS, PLEASE ESCORT HIM.


BUT THAT I DON'T, MA'AM.
I MAY BE GOOD,


WE DON'T EVEN TRUST RELATIVES ANYMORE.


WHAT ABOUT HIS OWN DOCTOR?


YOU HAVE TO CURE HIM ON THE SPOT.


THEN COULD YOU NAME YOUR PRICE?


THEY SAID RIGHT.
THEY SAY THAT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, KEEP PROMISES AS LONG AS YOU'RE PAID.

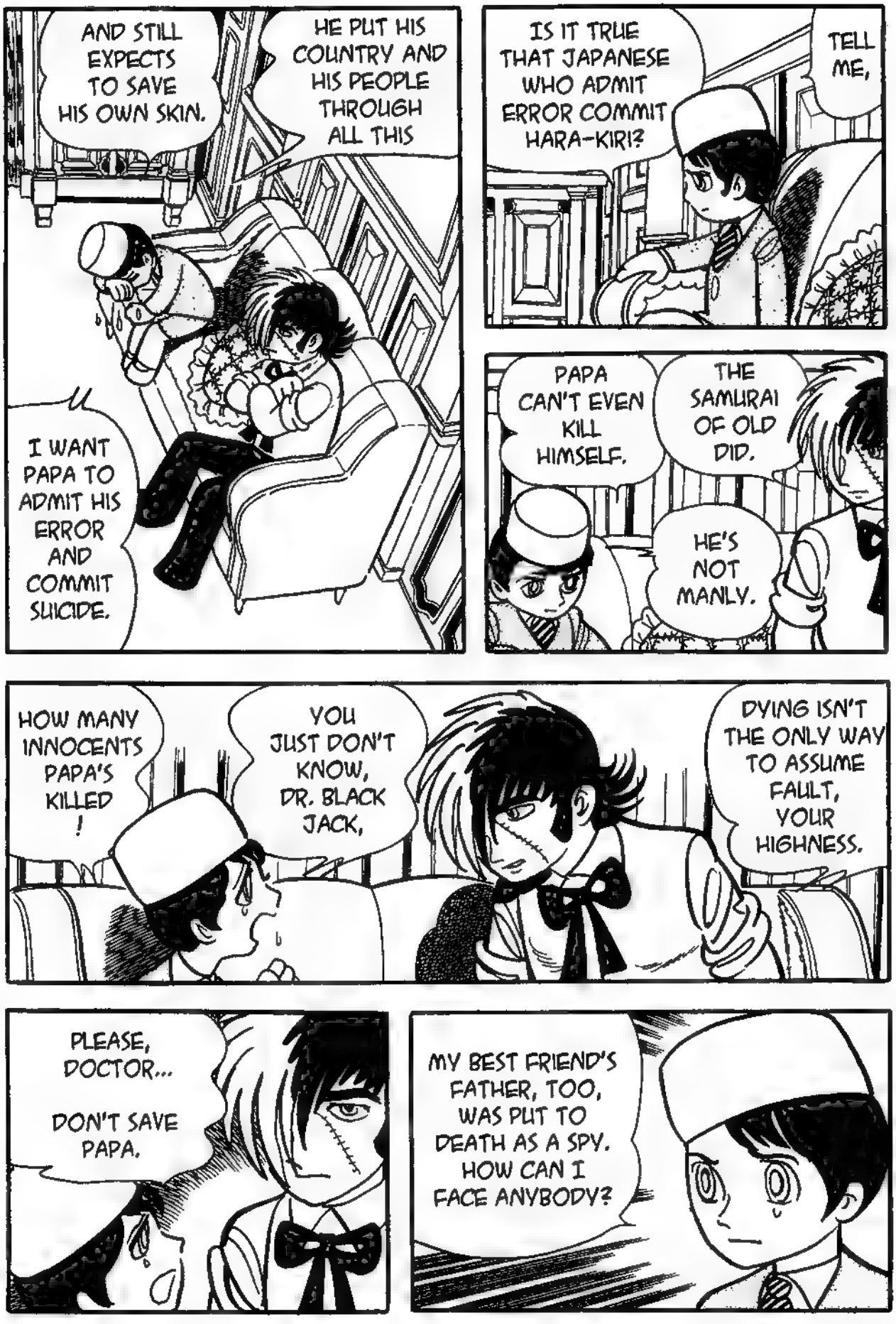

RUDE !!
THAT'S JUST ...
GIVE ME FIFTEEN BILLION YEN.
IT'S OVER THE TOP !
TOO HIGH ?
THREE QUARTERS OF OUR WEALTH!
YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF US... SHAME!
I'M SELLING MY LIFE TO HIM, NO?
MY LIFE ITSELF WILL BE AT RISK ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT'S.
WHAT IF HIS BODY ISN'T INTACT?
NO DEAL ...
HOW'D I TREAT HIM IF HE'S BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS?
YOU WON'T GET PAID AT ALL.
FINE, I CONSENT TO THE PRICE. BUT IF HE DIES,


ROAR
NOW QUICK, GO TO HIM!
FINE, FINE! AS LONG AS HE'S NOT IN SMITHEREENS!
THROUGH A SWISS BANK, IN CASH.
BEEP
BEEP

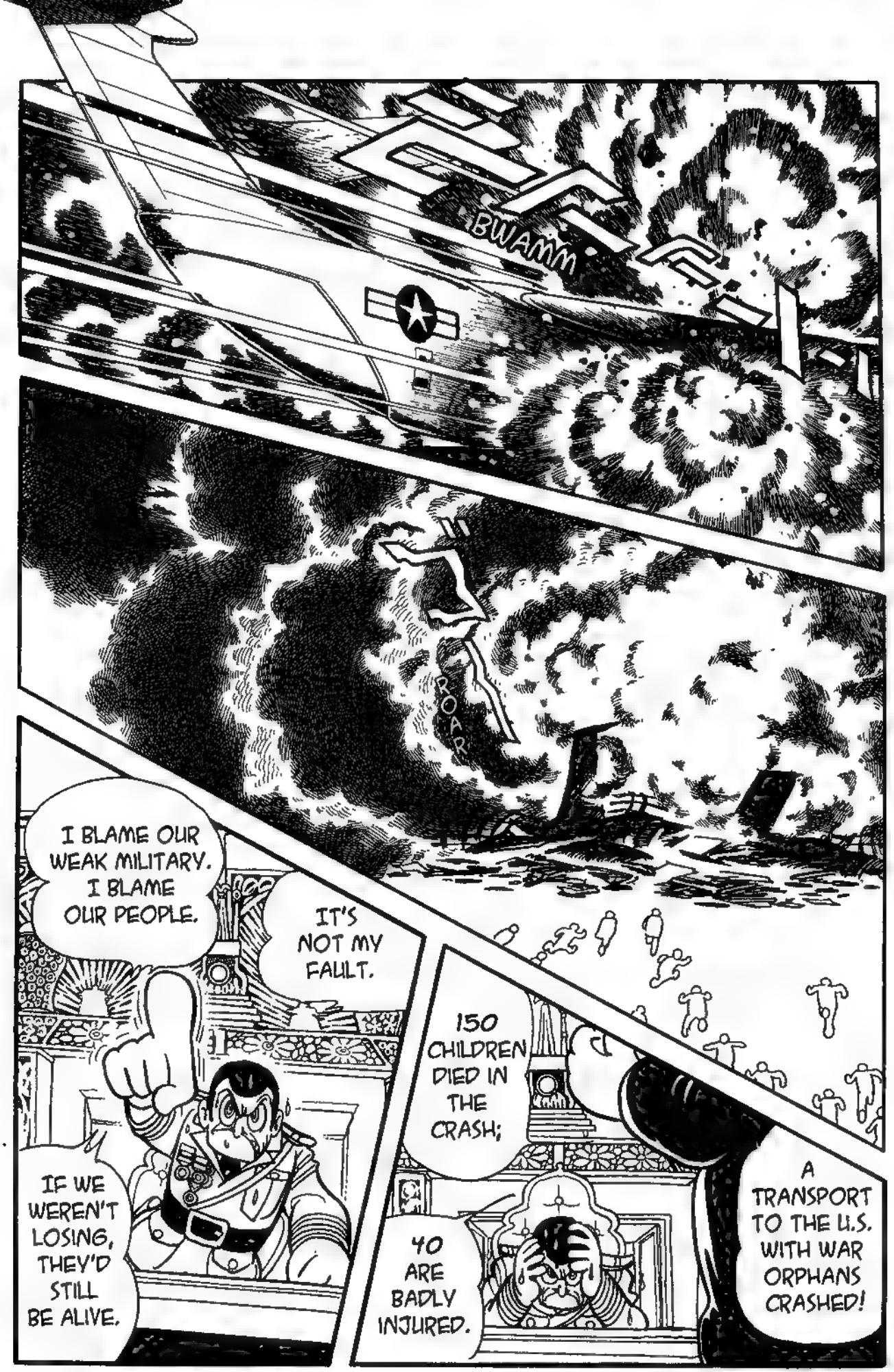

HANG THE TURN-COAT!
UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER— IF DEFEAT IS CERTAIN, THAT'D BE BEST FOR THE PEOPLE'S SAKE.
YOU TOO, PRIME MINISTER? YOU DARE BETRAY ME?!
...
WHO ARE YOU?


SO YOU'RE THE KNAVE WHO'D TAKE AWAY THREE QUARTERS OF MY WEALTH!
IT'S THE DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
I'LL SEND YOU TO THE GALLOWS FIRST.
GUARD CORPS !
HE'S TOTALLY DELIRIOUS... HE'LL NEVER RECOVER UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
YOU SPEAK OF PROTECTING BUT MEAN TO KILL ME.
I'M BEING TARGETED. ASSASSINS ARE AFOOT, EVEN HERE.
MY WIFE DID GO AHEAD AND MAKE THE DEAL...
HM
SO BE IT, STAY WITH ME THEN.
IF MY BODY GETS AS MUCH AS NICKED, OPERATE ON ME.
KREAK
THIS IS A MAN WHO MAY HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE, YOUR HONOR.


I... THOUGHT IT WAS AN ASSASSIN.
AARGH
BAM
BAM
I WANT TEA ON RICE.
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM.
YOUR WISHES WILL BE CATERED TO.
GUY, THE PRESIDENT'S SON.
WHY COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW?
WHO IS IT?
YES. I DO.
PAPA FAILS BOTH AS A PRESIDENT AND AS A MAN, DO YOU AGREE?
THERE ARE GUARDS AT THE DOOR AND HALL-WAY...


AND STILL EXPECTS TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN.
HE PUT HIS COUNTRY AND HIS PEOPLE THROUGH ALL THIS
I WANT PAPA TO ADMIT HIS ERROR AND COMMIT SUICIDE.
IS IT TRUE THAT JAPANESE WHO ADMIT ERROR COMMIT HARA-KIRI?
TELL ME,
PAPA CAN'T EVEN KILL HIMSELF.
THE SAMURAI OF OLD DID.
HE'S NOT MANLY.
HOW MANY INNOCENTS PAPA'S KILLED !
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW, DR. BLACK JACK,
DYING ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO ASSUME FAULT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
PLEASE, DOCTOR...
DON'T SAVE PAPA.
MY BEST FRIEND'S FATHER, TOO, WAS PUT TO DEATH AS A SPY. HOW CAN I FACE ANYBODY?


I'VE BEEN PAID TO LOOK AFTER HIS LIFE.
I CAN'T DO THAT !
LET HIM DIE.
IF HE DIES, THERE WILL BE PEACE!
SPIT
FOR FIFTEEN BILLION YEN, WHY YES.
WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY?
BUT THIS NATION'S PEOPLE WILL DISDAIN YOU!
I WON'T PLEAD WITH YOU.
YOU FOOL JAPA-NESE !!
...
YOU MAY BE A SURGICAL GENIUS,

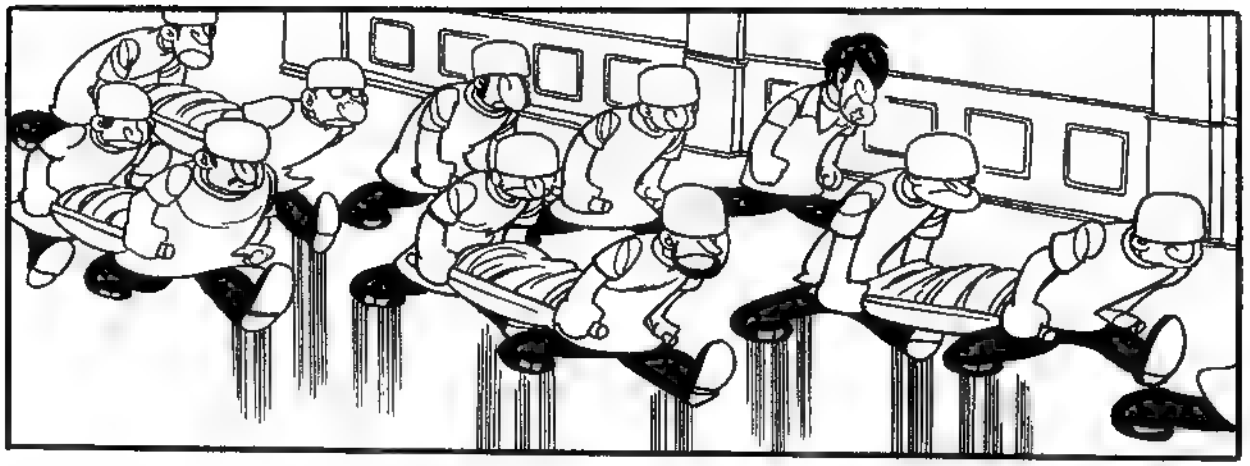

BWAMM
ROAR
I BLAME OUR WEAK MILITARY. I BLAME OUR PEOPLE.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
IF WE WEREN'T LOSING, THEY'D STILL BE ALIVE.
150 CHILDREN DIED IN THE CRASH;
40 ARE BADLY INJURED.
A TRANSPORT TO THE U.S. WITH WAR ORPHANS CRASHED!


WOEEE
ERR, UHM... ALL THE HOSPITALS ARE FULL. WHERE SHOULD THEY TAKE THE INJURED?
WHAT DO I CARE ?!
WE'VE BROUGHT THE WORST INJURED!
WOEEE
FIND OUT WHO GAVE THEM PERMISSION!
WHO LET THOSE AMBULANCES DRIVE INTO THE PALACE?
WHO LET THEM IN?


SO IT WAS YOU, BLACK JACK?
BAM
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
...
EH? TELL ME.
WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT?
CHASE THOSE VEHICLES OUT OF THE PALACE.
THEY THOUGHT YOU'D HELP. IT WON'T HURT YOU TO.
HUH?!
THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR YOU, YOUR HONOR.


YOU SUFFER FROM NEGATIVISM DUE TO OB-SESSION.
BEFORE YOU DO SO, MR. PRESIDENT, YOU SHOULD CHECK INTO A HOSPITAL FOR 3 YEARS.
FINE! I'LL KILL YOU. NOW!
YOU... YOU, TOO, DARE DISOBEY ME?
HAVING YOU HERE WAS A MISTAKE. PREPARE TO DIE.
SHUT UP !!
ガガーン!
KA-BOOM
FOR-GIVE ME, PAPA.


GUY...
SO IT WAS YOU...
WHO WAS
TARGETING ME...
PAPA!
DOCTOR
...
YOU
SAVED
ME,
GUY.
THANK
YOU.
I'VE ASSASSINATED
THE PRESIDENT.
APPREHEND
THE CULPRIT.
CARRY THE
CHILDREN INTO
THE TREATMENT
CENTER IN
THE PALACE.

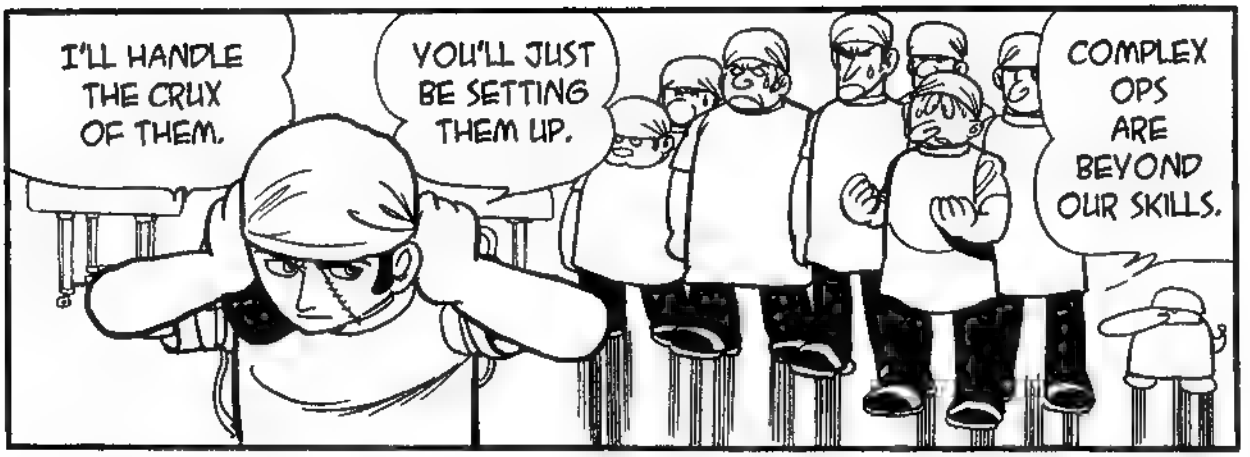


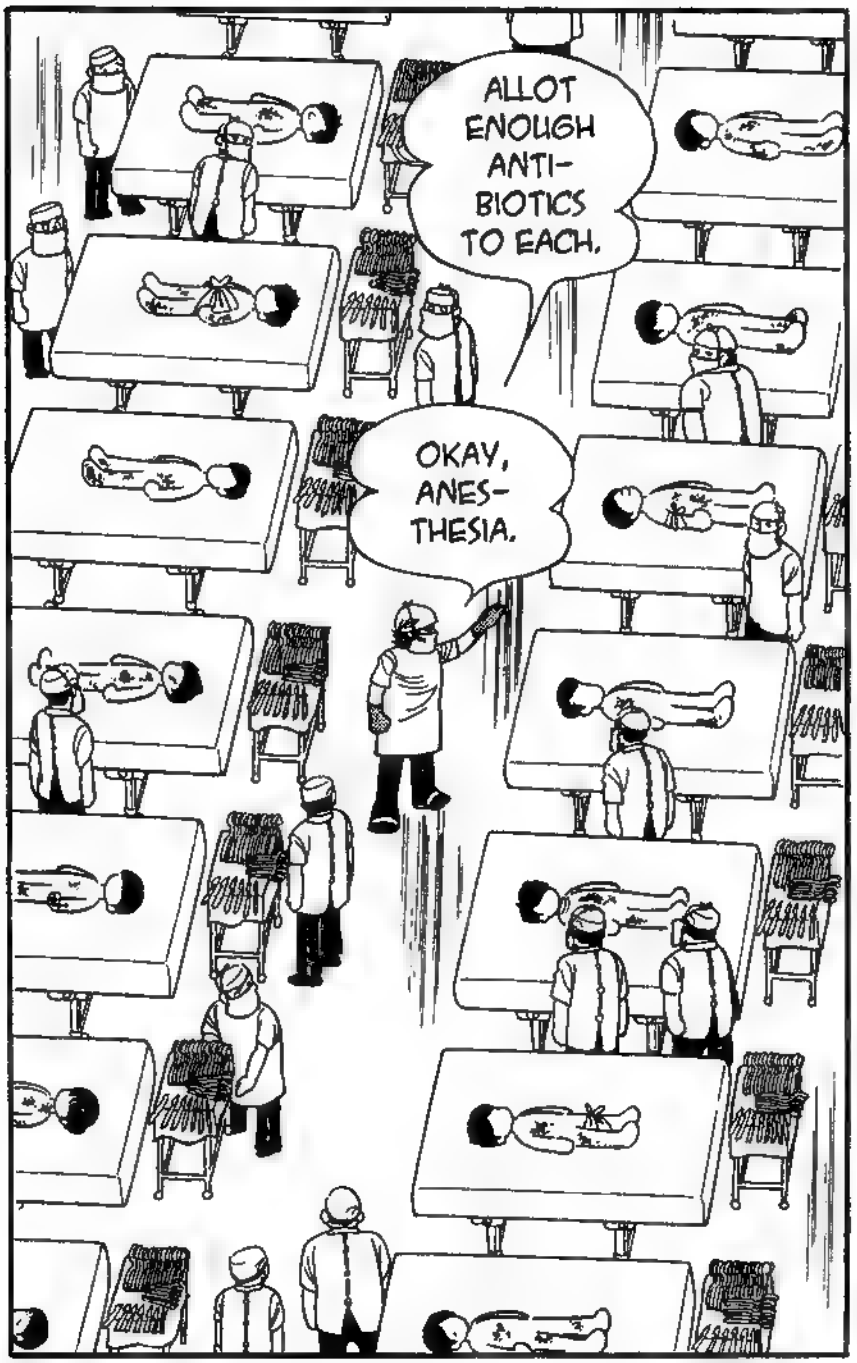

GROUP THEM BY INJURY: ORGANS GUTTED OUT; LIMBS SHORN OFF; SKIN SCORCHED BLACK.
LINE ALL 40 UP ON BEDS.


MEN!

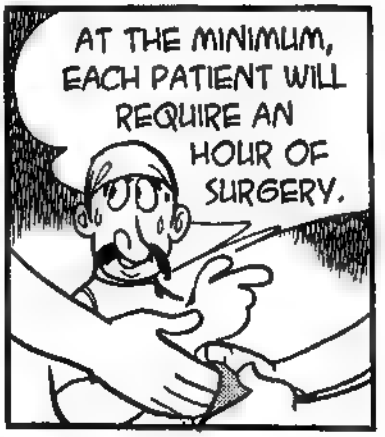

YEAH. NO TIME TO TAKE THEM IN ORDER.
WE'LL TREAT THEM ALL AT ONCE?


USING IT WE'LL PERFORM ALL THE PLASTIC SURGERY WE CAN ON THE CHILDREN!
WE HAVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM THE PRESIDENT. EVERY BONE AND SINEW OF THE BODY THAT LIES HERE IS AVAILABLE TO US.


I'LL HANDLE THE CRUX OF THEM.
YOU'LL JUST BE SETTING THEM UP.
COMPLEX OPS ARE BEYOND OUR SKILLS.


ALLOT ENOUGH ANTI-BIOTICS TO EACH.
OKAY, ANES-THESIA.


ALL 40? YOU CAN'T.
ALL ALONE ?

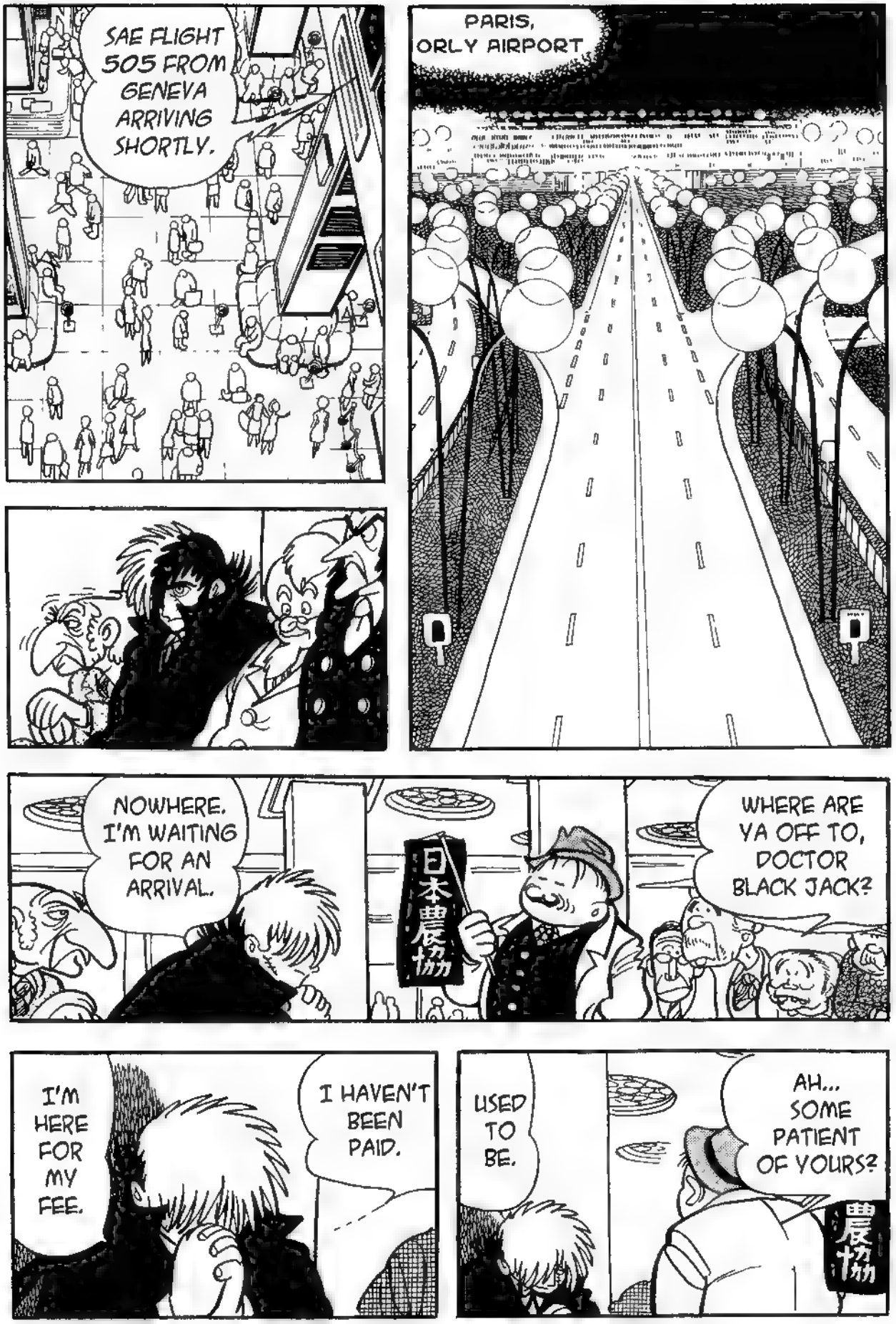

AT THE MINIMUM, EACH PATIENT WILL REQUIRE AN HOUR OF SURGERY.


OH YEAH? I WAS THINKING, AN HOUR FOR ALL 40!

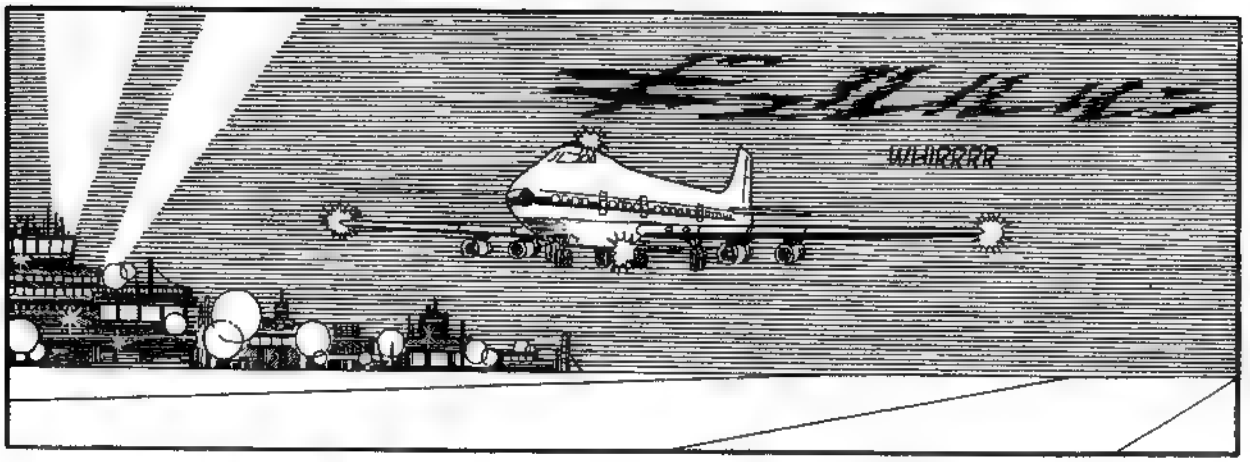

LOBECTOMY ON 24, MIDDLE LOBE OF RIGHT LUNG.
UPPER ARM AND ABDOMEN TIERGE TRANS-PLANT ON 14.
STOMACH-INTESTINE ANASTO-MOSIS ON 12, HAECKEL METHOD.
INFUSION! CORTICO STEROID
36'S BRAIN HAS AN EDEMA FROM HEAD TRAUMA.
40, AMPU-TATION! LOWER RIGHT LEG!
INCISE!
WE HAVE NO USE FOR IT.
THE BRAIN'S LEFT.
RIGHT KIDNEY EXTRACTED FOR 6!
TAKING 3RD AND 4TH RIBS TO 17!
WHY D'YOU LET HIM DIE?!
BUT YOU PROMISED YOU'D CURE HIM OF ANY INJURY.
YOU HAVE MY CON-DOLENCES, MA'AM.


YES. HE WAS TORN UP INTO... OH, ABOUT 40 PIECES.
WE SAID UNLESS HE WAS IN SMITHEREENS.
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
WE'VE NO BODY ...
JUST HIS BRAIN.
THE PRESIDENT TRULY SERVED HIS PEOPLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WE DID PUT THOSE 40 PIECES TO GOOD USE.

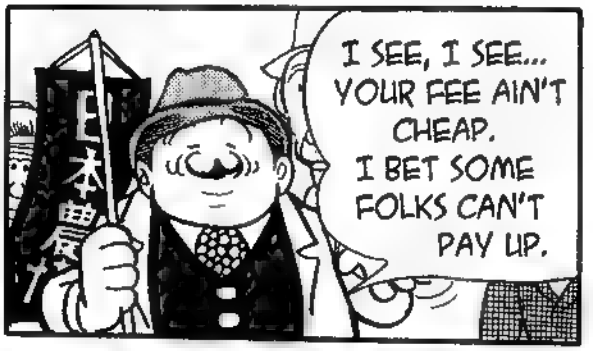
LIFE BOND


SAE FLIGHT 505 FROM GENEVA ARRIVING SHORTLY.
PARIS, ORLY AIRPORT
NOWHERE. I'M WAITING FOR AN ARRIVAL.
日本農協
WHERE ARE YA OFF TO, DOCTOR BLACK JACK?
I'M HERE FOR MY FEE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN PAID.
USED TO BE.
AH... SOME PATIENT OF YOURS?
農協

NOTE: THE INTERLOCUTOR'S BANNER IS FOR JAPAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES, WHOSE LOBBYING HAS SUPPORTED TRADE BARRIERS. FRANCE IS EUROPE'S AGRICULTURAL GIANT.


WHIRRRR

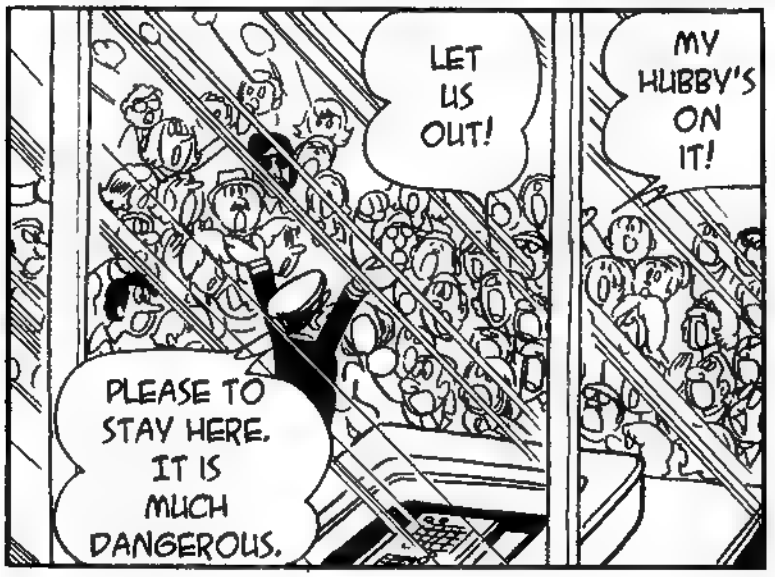

DEAL'S A DEAL.


I SEE, I SEE... YOUR FEE AIN'T CHEAP. I BET SOME FOLKS CAN'T PAY UP.

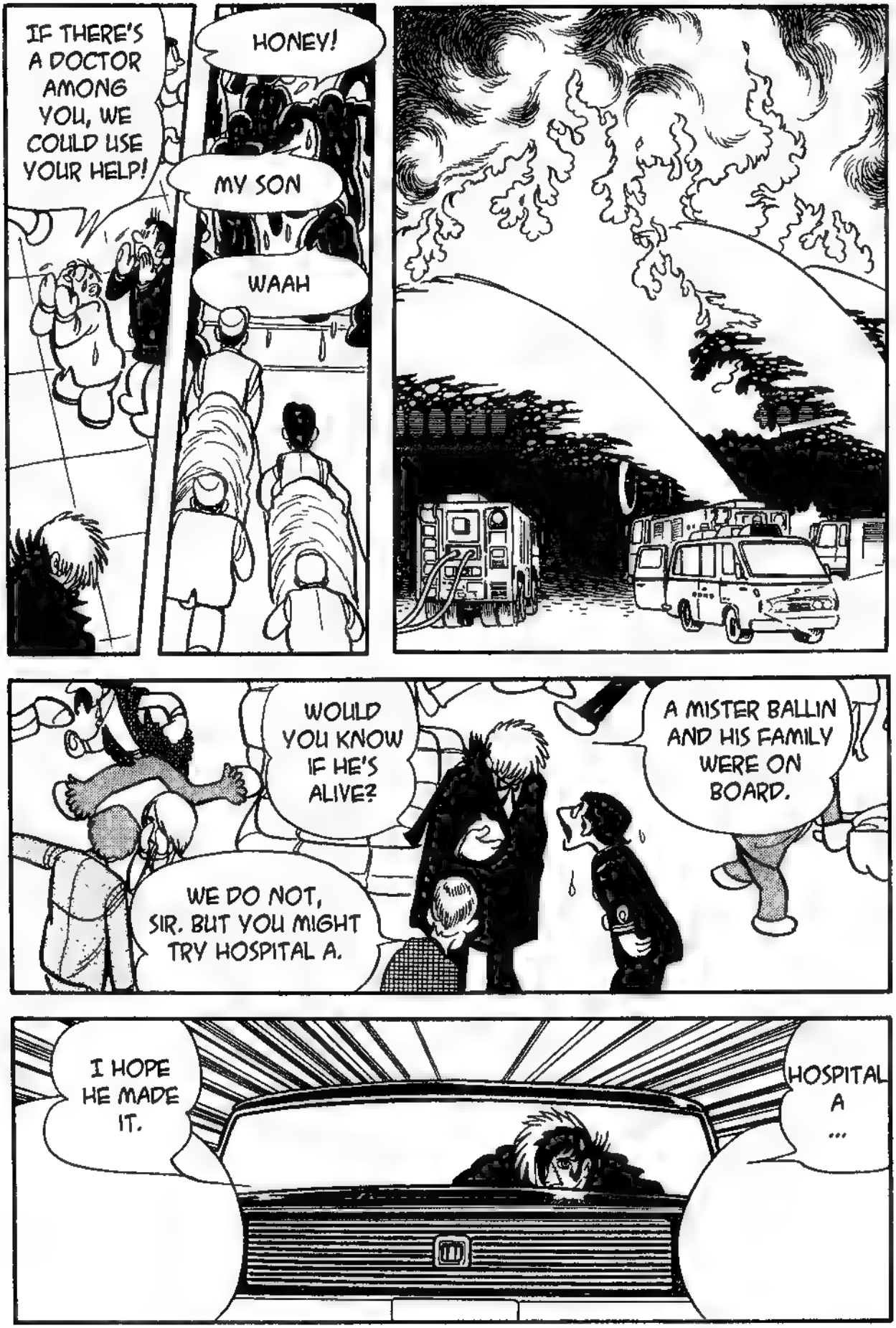

KA-BAM

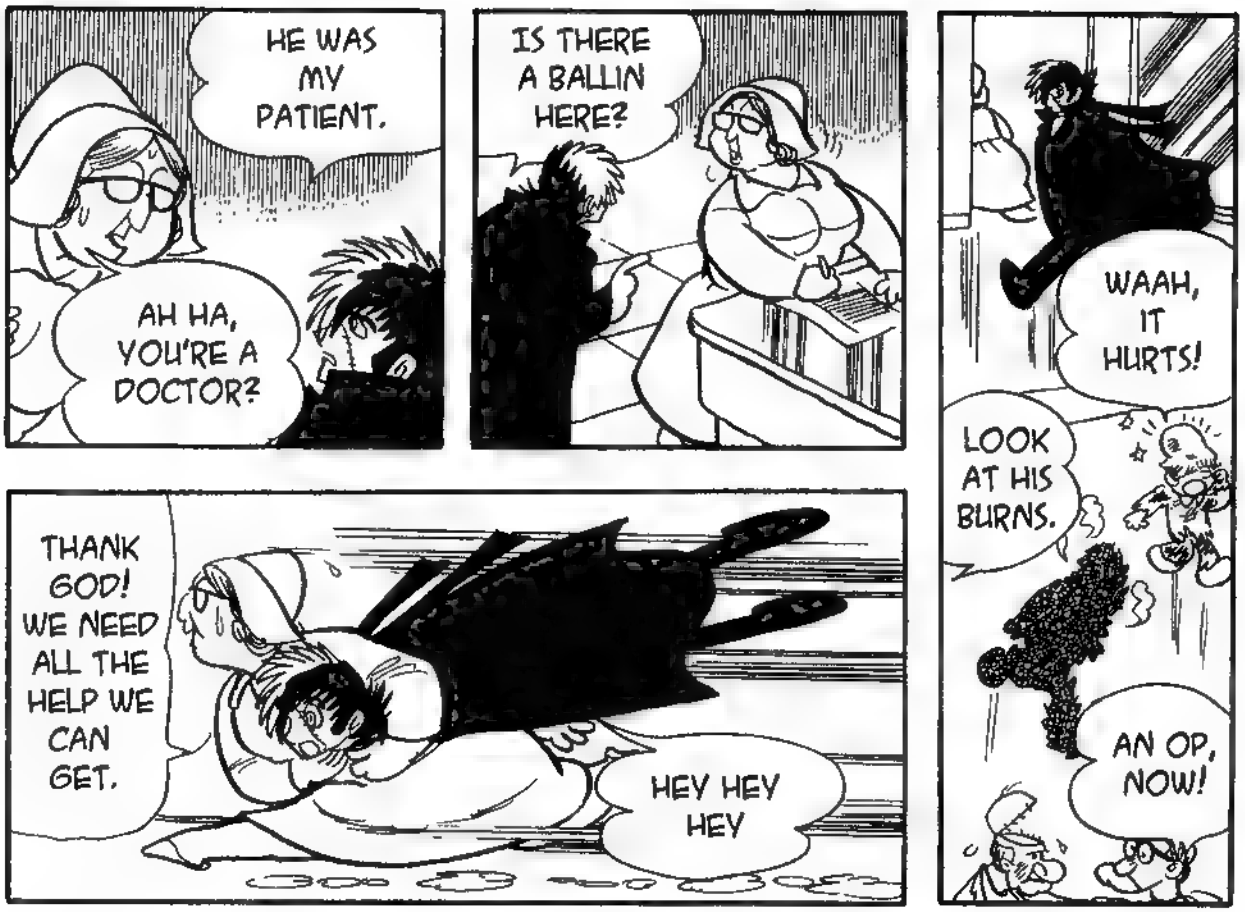

RRRUMBLE
ROAR
WOEEE

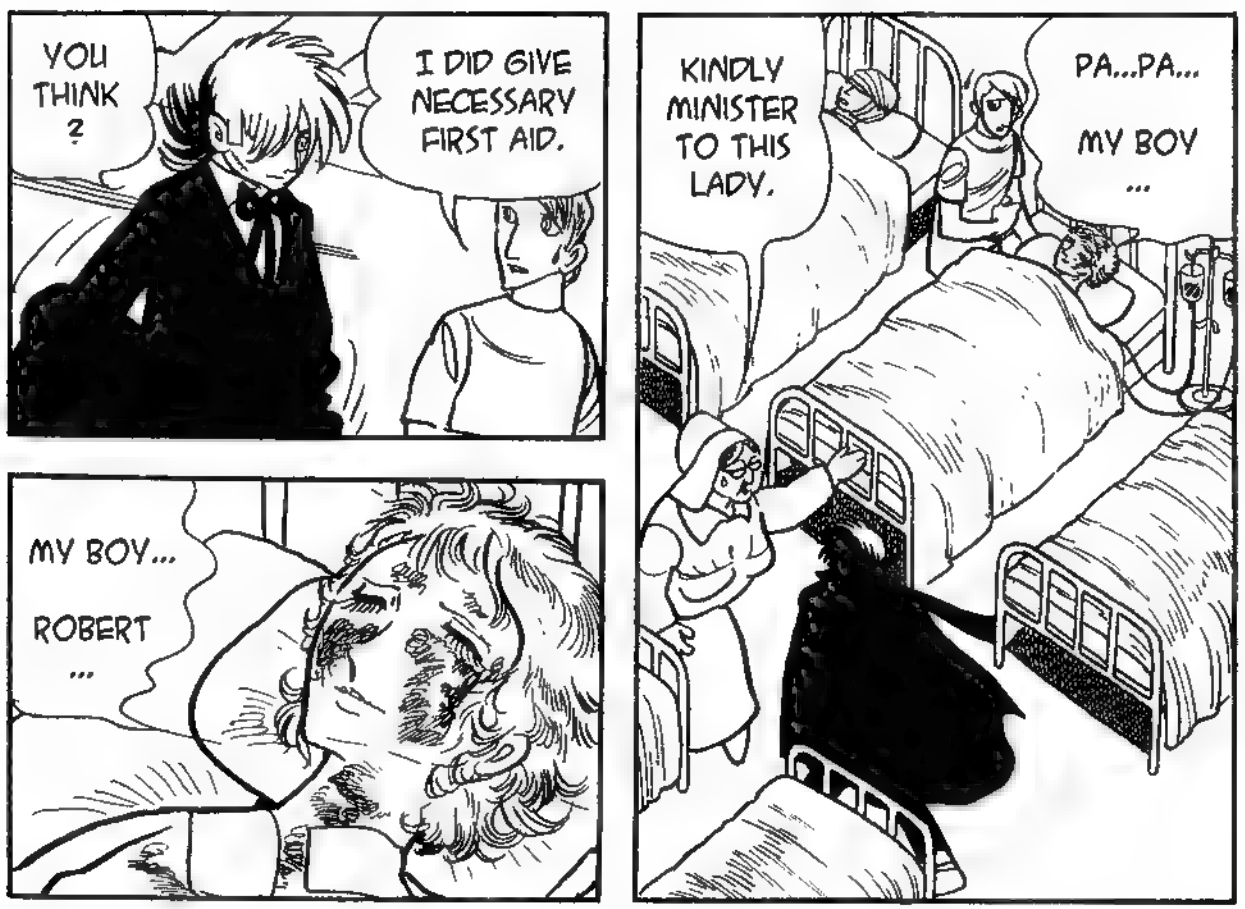

ROAR
BOWWW


LET US OUT!
MY HUBBY'S ON IT!
PLEASE TO STAY HERE. IT IS MUCH DANGEROUS.


A PASSENGER JET WENT UP IN FLAMES!


IF THERE'S A DOCTOR AMONG YOU, WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!
HONEY!
MY SON
WAAH
WOULD YOU KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE?
A MISTER BALLIN AND HIS FAMILY WERE ON BOARD.
WE DO NOT, SIR. BUT YOU MIGHT TRY HOSPITAL A.
I HOPE HE MADE IT.
HOSPITAL A ...


HE WAS MY PATIENT.
AH HA, YOU'RE A DOCTOR?
IS THERE A BALLIN HERE?
WAAH, IT HURTS!
LOOK AT HIS BURNS.
AN OP, NOW!
THANK GOD! WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.
HEY HEY HEY


YOU THINK ?
I DID GIVE NECESSARY FIRST AID.
KINDLY MINISTER TO THIS LADY.
PA...PA... MY BOY ...
MY BOY... ROBERT ...


HANG IN THERE.
THESE ARE THIRD-DEGREE BURNS. SHE'S A MESS.
PEN ICIL LIN !
IT'S UP TO HOW MUCH THE AIRLINE WILL AWARD THESE FOLKS.
HEY, DON'T COUNT ON ME.
DOCTOR, IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
THEY MUST BE HARD PUT TO TASK YOU WITH HER ...
ARE YOU AN INTERN ?
HER LIFE HANGS ON HER WILL.
MY BOY... HONEY ...


TRANS-FUSION DRIP, 1L AT A TIME.
NITROUS OXIDE.
SUK
FIND OUT FOR ME IF THE BALLINS WERE TAKEN HERE.
AND HAVE SOME TRYPSIN READY.
OLIVE OIL.
DON'T BAND-AGE HER FACE!
SPRAY HER BODY WITH TANNIC ACID.
SNIP
THEIR SON WAS SAVED, BUT BARELY, AND IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
WHAT ?!
DOCTOR... MONSIEUR AND MADAME BALLIN ARE BOTH DEAD.


IS THE SON AT THIS HOSPITAL?
NO, NOT THIS ONE.
SHRUG
THE BALLIN FAMILY GONE?!
WHO WILL PAY MY FEES THEN?
DOCTOR! HOW CAN YOU JUST LEAVE?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THEY OWED YOU, BUT—
DOCTOR, WHAT OF THIS PATIENT?
I WON'T BE LONG. KEEP GIVING HER PENICILLIN. TRYPSIN, TOO.
700,000 DOLLARS.
ACK! S-SEVEN ...
I'VE GOT TO SAVE THIS SON.
ZILCH IF THE BALLINS DIE OUT.


IT'S TOO LATE.
HOW'S THE JUNIOR BALLIN?
HE'S JUST A BABY?!
BAM
WE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT HE'S HARDLY EVEN BREATHED SINCE HE GOT HERE.
HE HAS BURNS ON A SEVENTH OF HIS BODY. MAYBE SIXTH... HE'S DOOMED.
PUMP IT INTO HIM, JUST PUMP HIM UP WITH BLOOD!
PLASMA, AT THAT. QUICK!
HE NEEDS MORE BLOOD.
SHOCK DUE TO DEHY-DRATION ...
LET ME TRY!
EH, TRY WHAT?

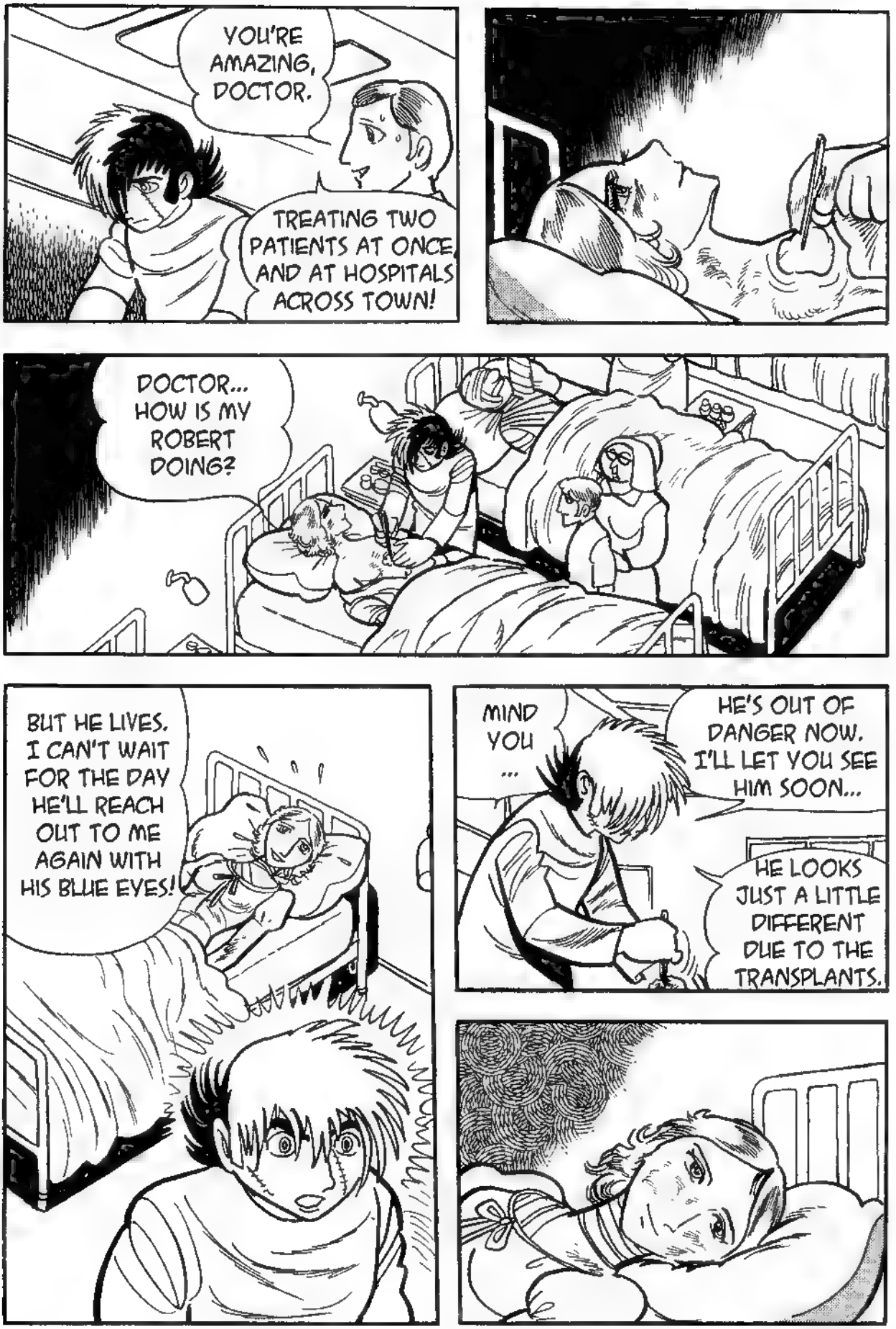

AND A HEART MASSAGE. DON'T DITHER!
GIVE HIM A.R.
IT'S NO USE. HIS HEART'S STOPPED TOO.
MOVE! OPENING HIS CHEST.
FSK
RIB RET
TRACTOR

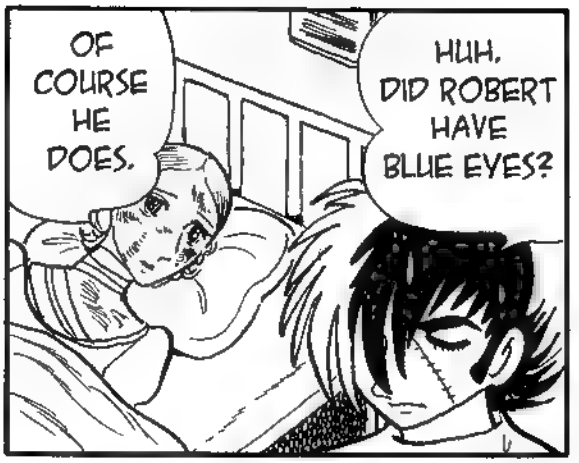

YOU'D JUST WATCH HIM DIE?
WHO OPENS UP A BABY'S CHEST FOR A HEART MASSAGE?!
YOU PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN DO THIS?
THERE, IT BEATS AGAIN.
SEE, THE BABY DIDN'T GIVE UP EITHER.
KRRRR
THEY'RE SAVING A LADY THAT YOU OPERATED ON IS DYING...
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
A CALL FOR YOU, DOCTOR. FROM HOSPITAL A.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ALLO, ALLO? IT'S ME.
I'M IN AN OP HERE.
TAKE OVER.


COME CHEER HER UP!
SHE NEEDS TO WANT TO LIVE ON HER OWN.
DID YOU SAY "BABY"?
HOLD ON ...
SHE EXHIBITS NO WILL TO LIVE WHATSOEVER. HER STATE OF MIND IS SAPPING ALL HER VIGOR.
DOCTOR, THAT PATIENT IS SERIOUSLY TRAUMATIZED OVER LOSING HER HUSBAND AND HER BABY.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
YES, A BABY NAMED ROBERT.
JUST DO IT, OKAY?
BUT HER BABY BURNED TO DEATH!
THAT WILL CHEER HER UP.
TELL HER ROBERT WAS RESCUED AND IS BEING TREATED ELSEWHERE.


MADAME, YOUR ROBERT IS SAFE. HE'S BEING TREATED AT ANOTHER HOSPITAL.
...
COME TO MAMA.
ROBERT
NOW TAKE COURAGE, MADAME!
R...
ROBERT
...
DUNNO. PRAY TO HEAVEN FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL LIVE?
LET'S TAKE THE RISK AND SEE HOW IT GOES. JUST FEED HIM BLOOD 'TIL HE'S SICK OF IT!
AH HA, NOW YOU BREATHE, YOU LITTLE TYKE.
I'LL BE PRAYING TOO. IF HE LIVES, THERE'S HOPE FOR ME TOO!

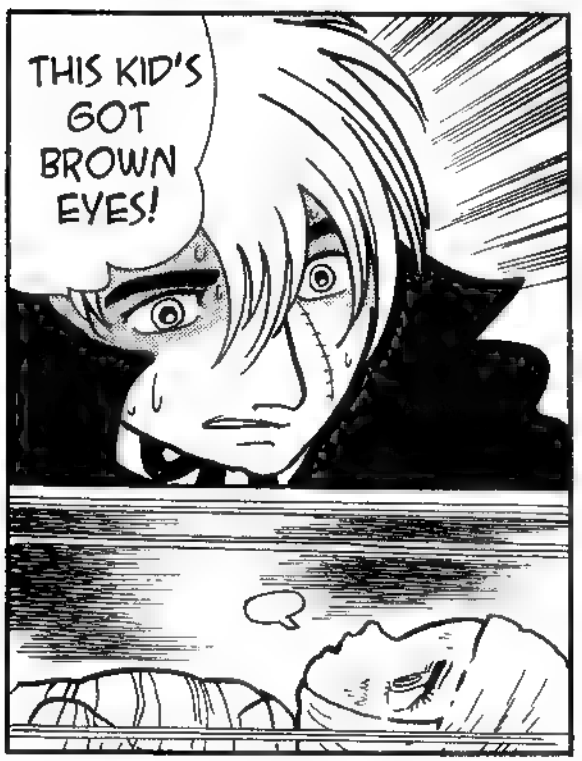

TWO WEEKS LATER
MMA...
MMA...
A FEW MORE TRANSPLANTS SHOULD DO IT, HE SAYS.
THANKS TO THAT JAPANESE DOCTOR'S TALENTS.
IT'S A MIRACLE. WE SAVED HIM!
THINK ABOUT IT. HE IS AN ORPHAN. HE WILL BE PLACED IN SOME... FACILITY.
THIS CHILD'S FUTURE, ALAS, IS FAR FROM SECURE ...
BE THAT AS IT MAY,

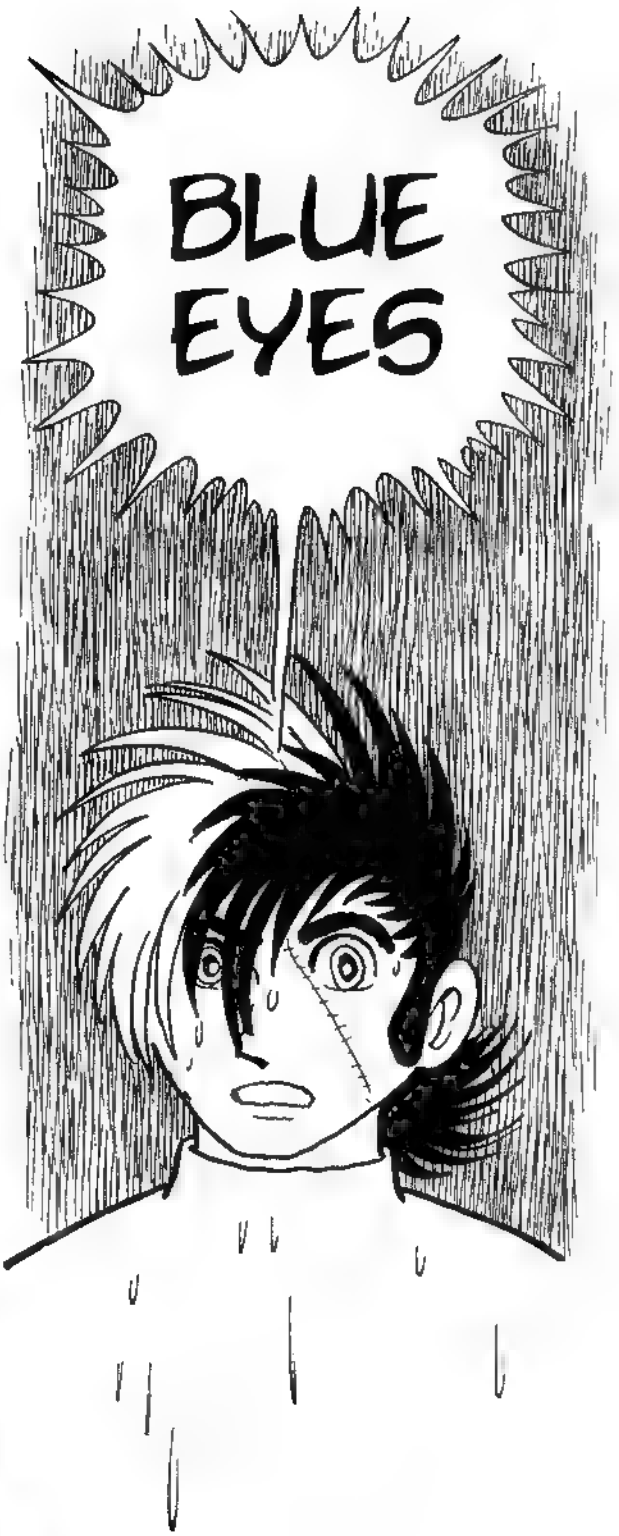

YOU'RE AMAZING, DOCTOR.
TREATING TWO PATIENTS AT ONCE, AND AT HOSPITALS ACROSS TOWN!
DOCTOR... HOW IS MY ROBERT DOING?
BUT HE LIVES. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY HE'LL REACH OUT TO ME AGAIN WITH HIS BLUE EYES!
MIND YOU ...
HE'S OUT OF DANGER NOW. I'LL LET YOU SEE HIM SOON...
HE LOOKS JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT DUE TO THE TRANSPLANTS.


OF COURSE HE DOES.
HUH. DID ROBERT HAVE BLUE EYES?





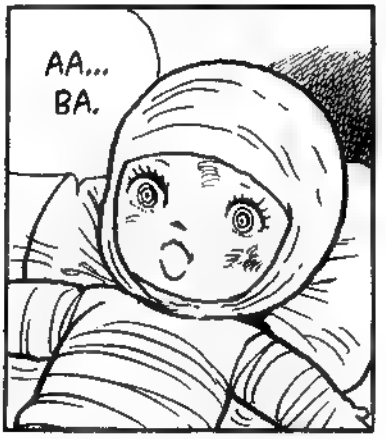

THIS KID'S GOT BROWN EYES!

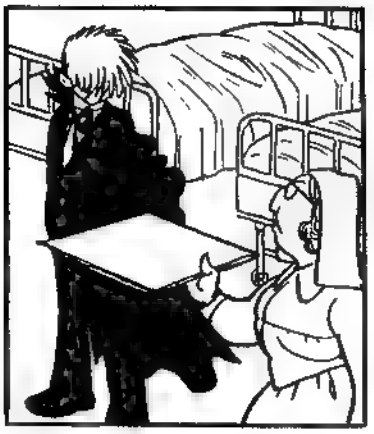

BLUE EYES

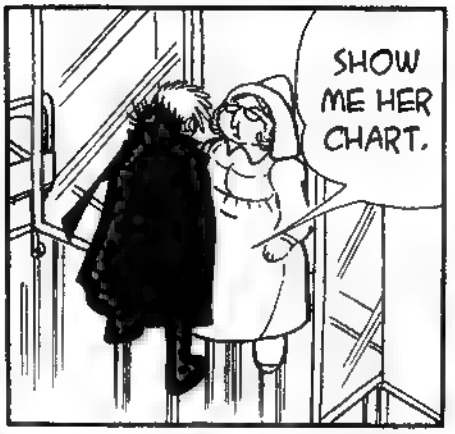


TOO BAD, WHEN THEY'RE RECOVERING SO WELL...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO TRICK THAT LADY.
THE KID WAS FATED TO BECOME AN ORPHAN.
















A MONTH LATER
SKREE
MA...
ROBERT!!
IT'S MAMA!
ROBERT
M...MA
...


HE'S STILL MY DEAR ROBERT.
HIS FACE'S A LITTLE...
DOCTOR, WHY DIDN'T SHE NOTICE THAT THE BABY WASN'T HERS?
BUT THE BROWN EYES ...
I WILL BE TOO AFTER THE AIRLINE PAYS UP.
THE LADY, THE BABY, BOTH HAPPY.
SEE,
NOW AND THEN GOD LENDS A HELPING... SLEIGHT OF HAND.
LOOK AT HER CHART.
LADY'S COLOR BLIND.

SEALED MEMORY


IT'S AN OLD ONE.
WHAT'S THAT SONG?
CUR-LING LEISURELY THE FRESH SNO-W ...
トキワ荘
HOW DID THE REST GO?
HMM ...
AH, GOOD.
WE HAVE OUR RENT.
NOT THIS AGAIN.
UH-OH.
TIME TO GO.
HOW TIME FLIES ...
AFTER ALL, IT WENT UP THIRTY YEARS AGO. YES. RIGHT AFTER THE WAR...
YOU MEAN NO PLACE IS AS SHABBY !
NO OTHER PLACE IS AS CHEAP THESE DAYS.

NOTE: "TOKIWA-SO" (AS THE SIGN READS) HOUSED MANY YOUNG MANGA ARTISTS INCLUDING FUJIKO FUJIO, SHOTARO ISHIMORI, AND TEZUKA HIMSELF. THE FILM *FRESH SNOW* AND ITS EPONYMOUS ORIGINAL SONG WERE HITS IN 1943 DESPITE THE WAR.

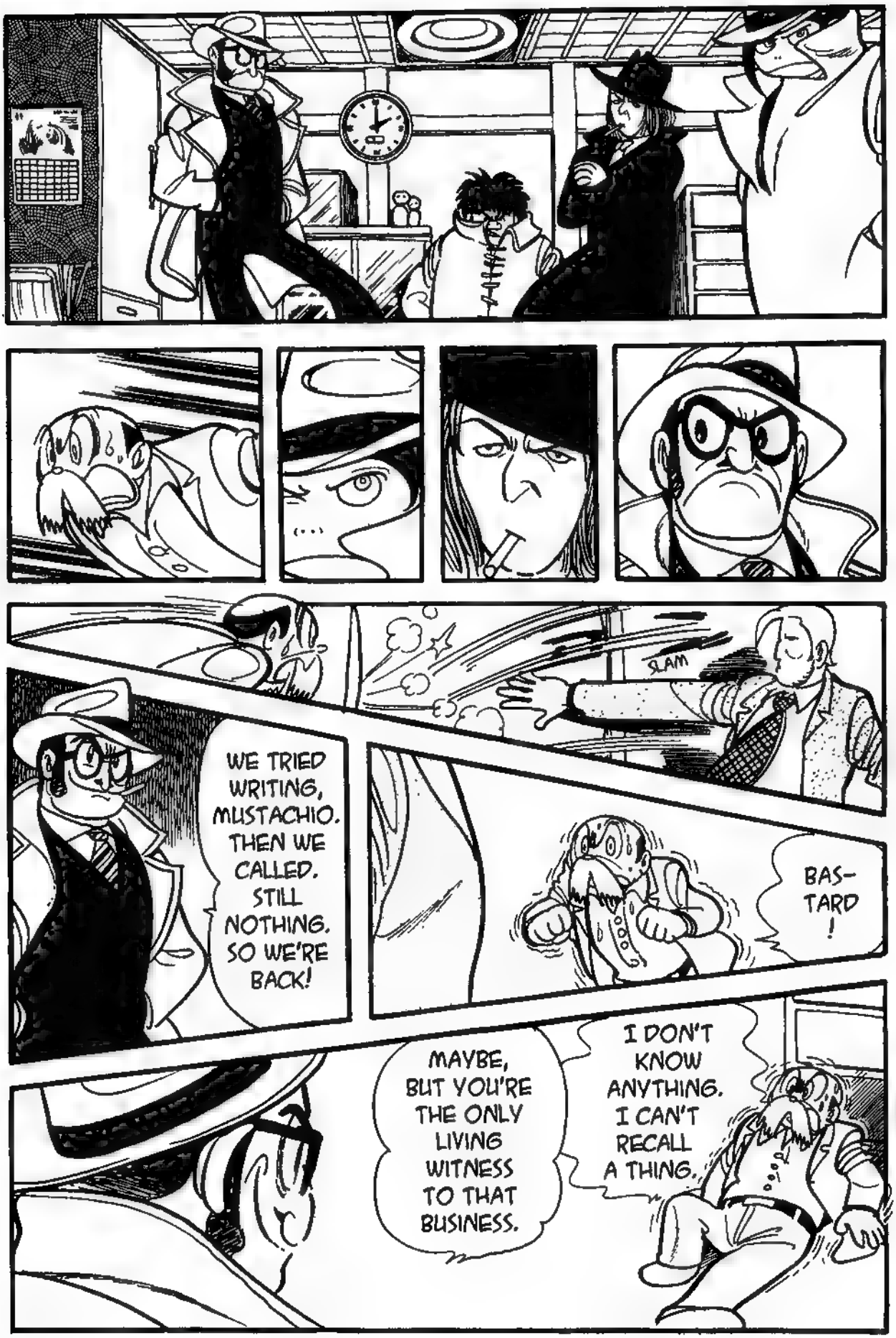

BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHERE, WHEN, OR WHY, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.
INDEED, I WAS BONKED FROM BEHIND.
THE SCAR ON YOUR HEAD IS FROM THE WAR, YES?
OH, THIS? HEH...
WHY WAS I WHACKED? WHAT WAS I DOING THEN ?
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SO MUCH I NEVER MARRIED OR FOOLED AROUND.
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS AWFULLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
WHEN I SEE ONE, IT NEARLY COMES BACK TO ME.
CANDLES
MY ONLY CLUE ARE


THANK YOU, KENKO.
POOR GRAMPS. CHEER UP, OKAY?
SO SAD.
YOU LOOK
YOU CAN'T.
TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG, I'LL HELP.
MY, MY.
IF YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE YOUNGER, I'D MARRY YOU AND COMFORT YOU, Y'KNOW!
RECALL WHAT?
NO IDEA...
I'M HAVING TROUBLE RECALLING SOMETHING. IT'S BEEN GNAWING AT ME FOR A LONG TIME...
OH, I GET IT. JUST BE COLD TO KENKO!
I GUESS IT'S CALLED AMNESIA ...
YES, SIR.
LOST YOUR MEMORY?

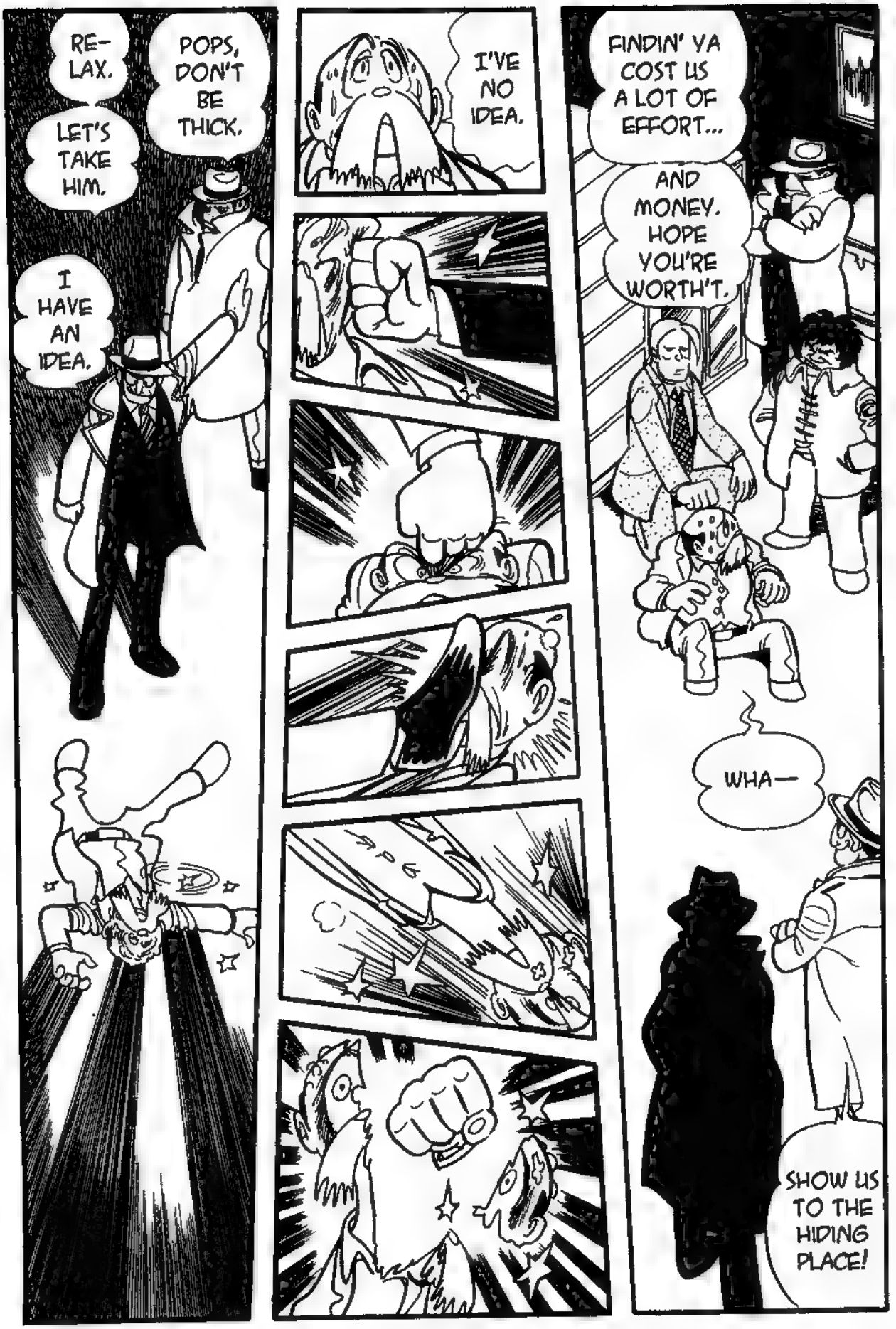

URRRRAH
YOU ARE GOING BACK IN TIME... TO WARTIME... BACK... BACK... BACK...
URRRRAH

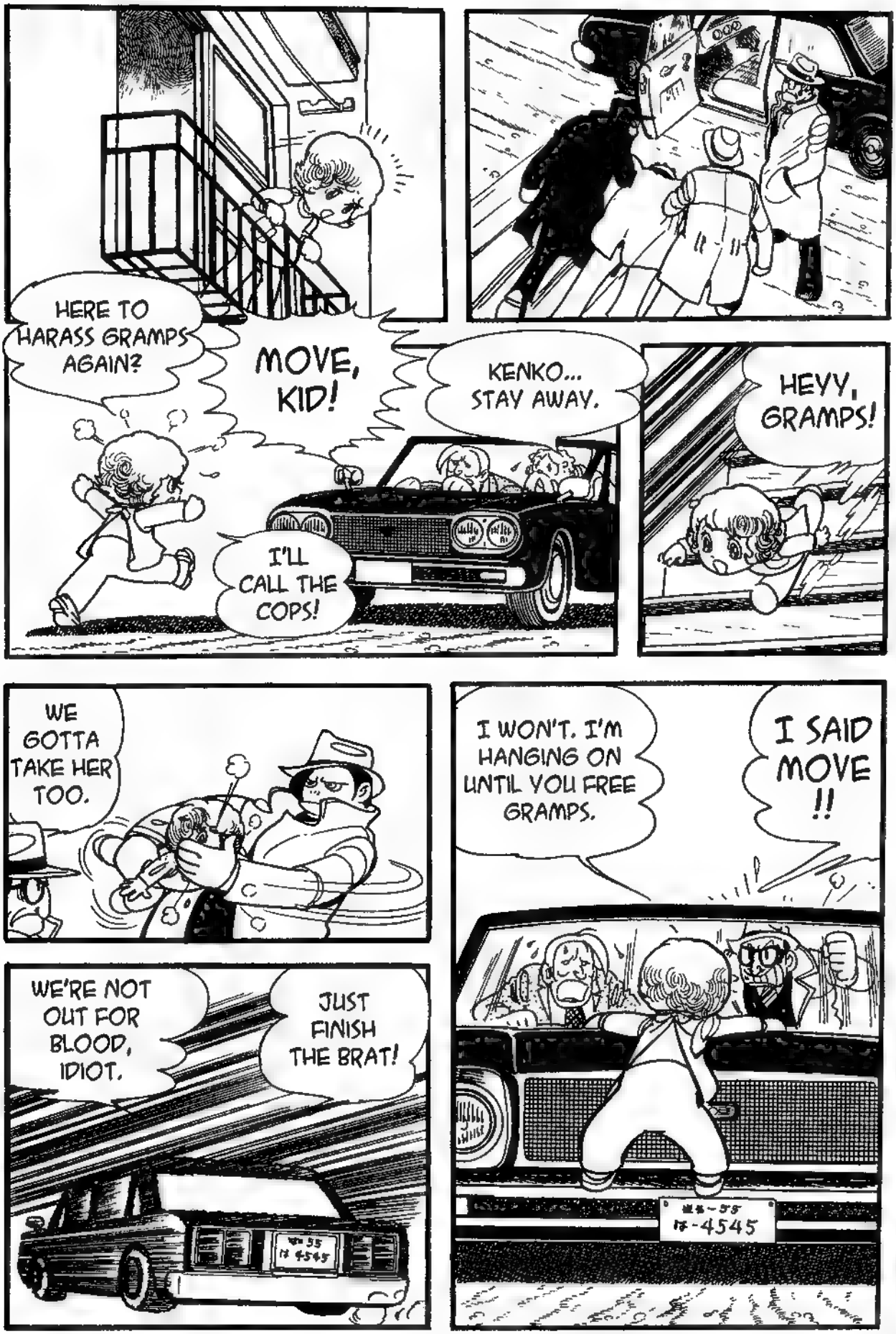

IT MUST BE YOUR BRAIN, FROM THE BLOW. WHAT YOU NEED IS A DOCTOR.
NEITHER HYPNOSIS NOR AUTO-SUGGESTION IS WORKING.
WHEE, I'M SPENT.
THANKS
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
WHAT...


WHAT IS IT?
トキワ荘


(...)
SLAM
WE TRIED WRITING, MUSTACHIO. THEN WE CALLED. STILL NOTHING. SO WE'RE BACK!
BAS-TARD !
MAYBE, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY LIVING WITNESS TO THAT BUSINESS.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. I CAN'T RECALL A THING.

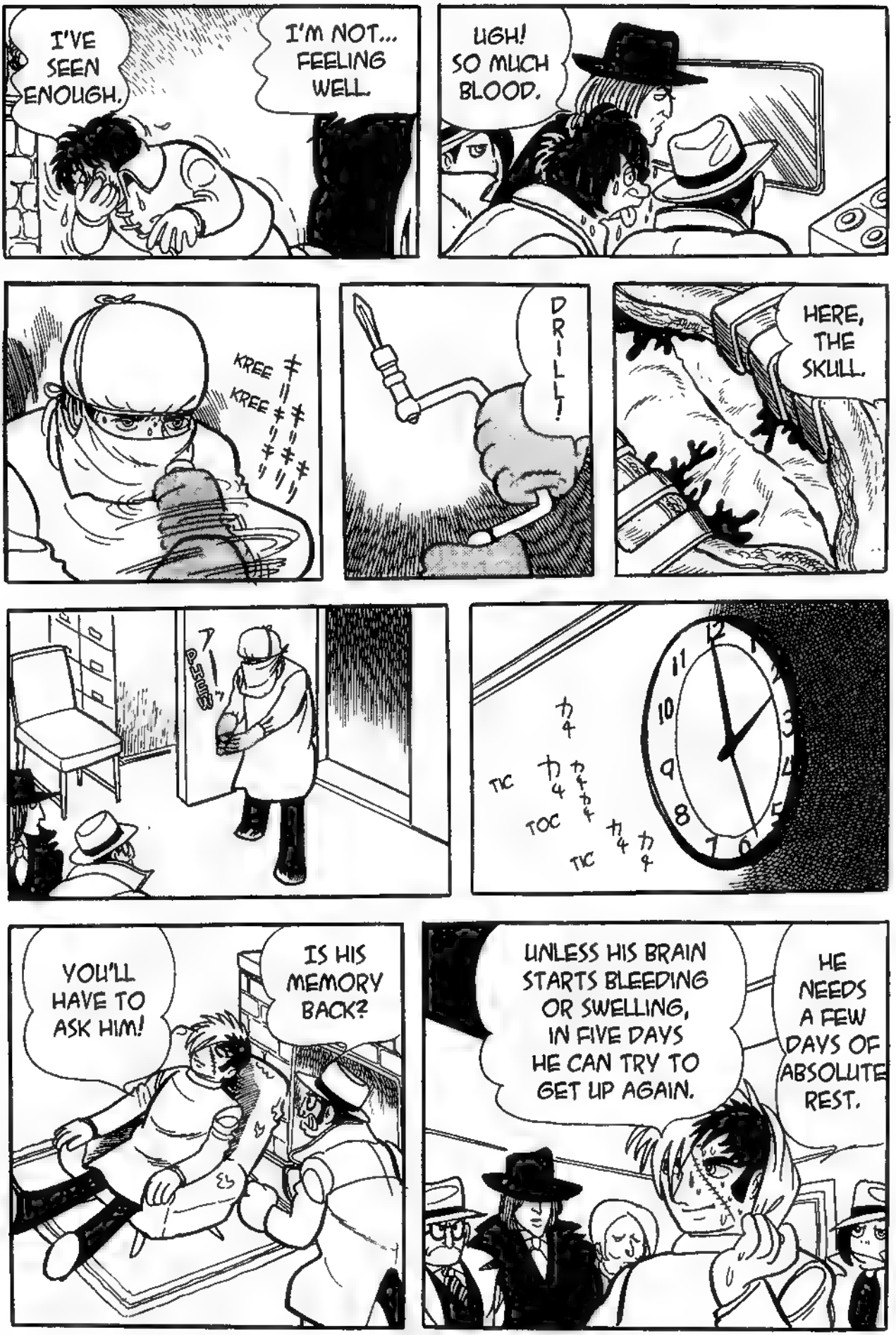

STOP PLAYIN' DUMB!
RIGHT, AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID I DON'T REMEMBER A THING?
WE'RE ASKING YOU ABOUT THE HEAPS OF OIL YOU HID FOR THE MILITARY THIRTY YEARS AGO.
300,000 GALLONS OF OIL WERE BEING SHIPPED TO OKINAWA RIGHT BEFORE IT FELL. THE CONVOY TURNED BACK AND HID ITS CARGO.
YEAH. WE GOTTA END THIS TODAY.
AFTERWARDS, ENEMY PLANES SANK THE ENTIRE CONVOY ALONG WITH EVERYONE WHO KNEW WHERE THE CARGO WAS HIDDEN.
EVERYONE BUT YOU. YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR!


RE-LAX.
POPS, DON'T BE THICK.
LET'S TAKE HIM.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
I'VE NO IDEA.
FINDIN' YA COST US A LOT OF EFFORT...
AND MONEY. HOPE YOU'RE WORTH'T.
WHA—
SHOW US TO THE HIDING PLACE!

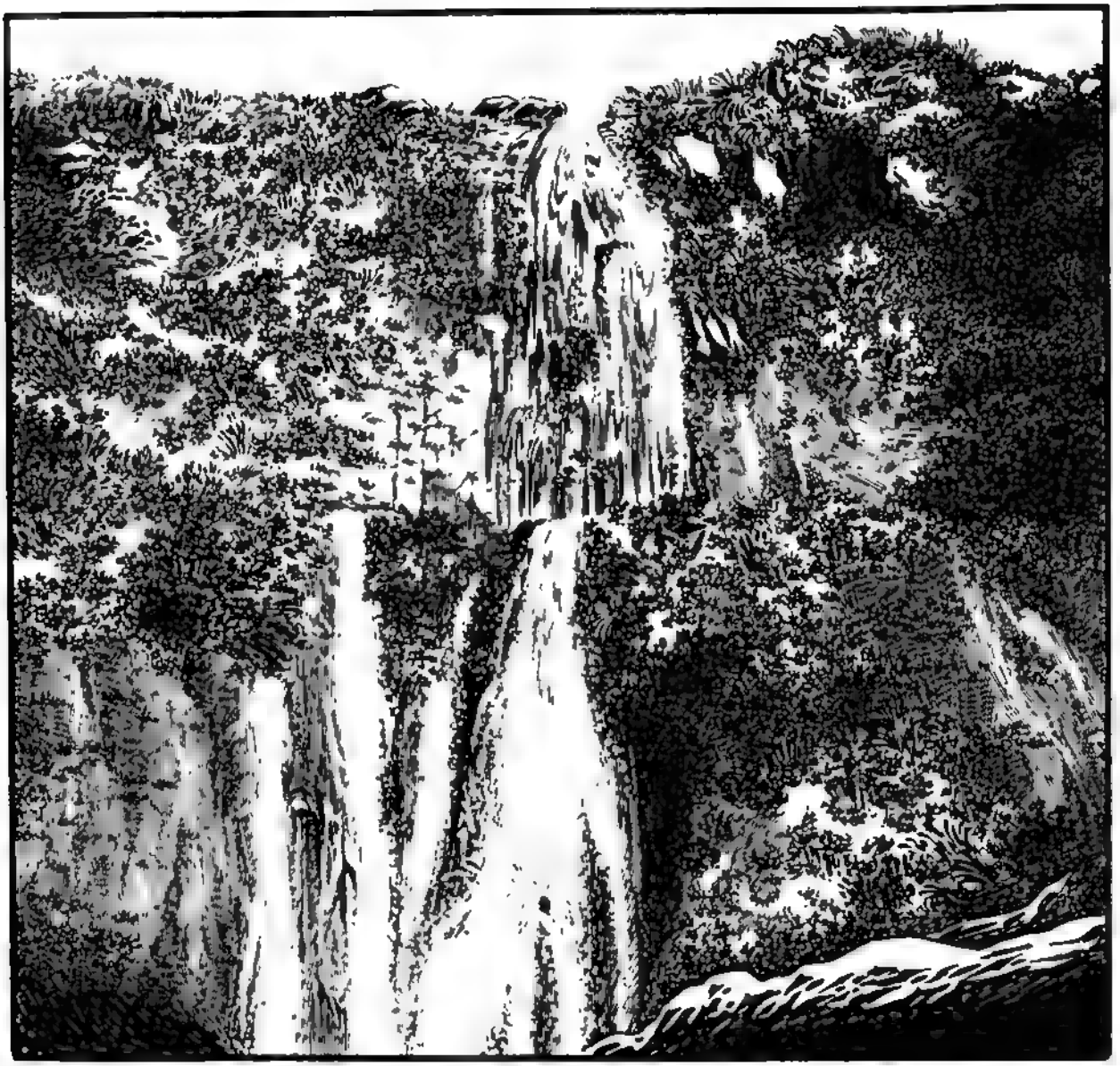

HERE TO HARASS GRAMPS AGAIN?
MOVE, KID!
KENKO... STAY AWAY.
I'LL CALL THE COPS!
HEVY, GRAMPS!
WE GOTTA TAKE HER TOO.
WE'RE NOT OUT FOR BLOOD, IDIOT.
JUST FINISH THE BRAT!
I WON'T. I'M HANGING ON UNTIL YOU FREE GRAMPS.
I SAID MOVE !!


NOT AN ACT.
OKAY, IT IS AMNESIA,
A HEAVY BLOW TO THE HEAD HERE...
IT HAS A PHYSICAL CAUSE, TOO.
IF WE REMOVED THE HEMA-TOMA, HIS MEMORY MAY RETURN.
THAT'S EXERTING PRESSURE ON HIS BRAIN.
RESULTED IN A HEMATOMA ...

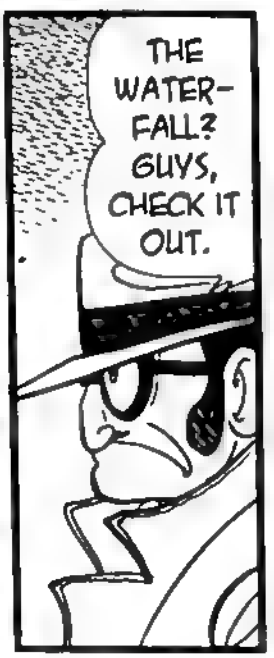

"MAY" DON'T CUT IT.
HE HAS TO RECALL EXACTLY.
I SAID IT MAY RETURN. THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL.
HURRY AND DO IT THEN!
BUT IF YOU SUCCEED, WE'LL PAY YOU WELL.
IF YOUR SURGERY DOESN'T DO THE JOB, YOU'RE IN FER IT TOO!
GRAMPS
THIS IS GOING TO BE A RISKY OPERATION. DON'T PULL ANYTHING FUNNY WHILE I'M WORKING ON HIM, OR IT'LL FAIL. REMEMBER THAT!
KEEP HER OUT OF THE WAY. THIS WILL PUT HER DOWN.
I'LL PEEL BACK THE SCALP, THEN INCISE THE PERIOSTEUM ABOUT 3 CM.


I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
I'M NOT... FEELING WELL.
UGH! SO MUCH BLOOD.
KREE KREE
DRILL!
HERE, THE SKULL.
TIC TOC TIC
YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM!
IS HIS MEMORY BACK?
UNLESS HIS BRAIN STARTS BLEEDING OR SWELLING, IN FIVE DAYS HE CAN TRY TO GET UP AGAIN.
HE NEEDS A FEW DAYS OF ABSOLUTE REST.


MIKURA?
IT'S COMING BACK, YES. SOUTH CAVE, MIKURA ISLAND.
YEAH, KEEP ON RECALLIN'!
CAN YOU TAKE US THERE?
THE MOST OUT OF THE WAY OF THE 7 IZU ISLANDS.
MIKURA, HUH? WHAT A SUR-PRISE.
THAT DOC'S PRETTY GOOD, EH?



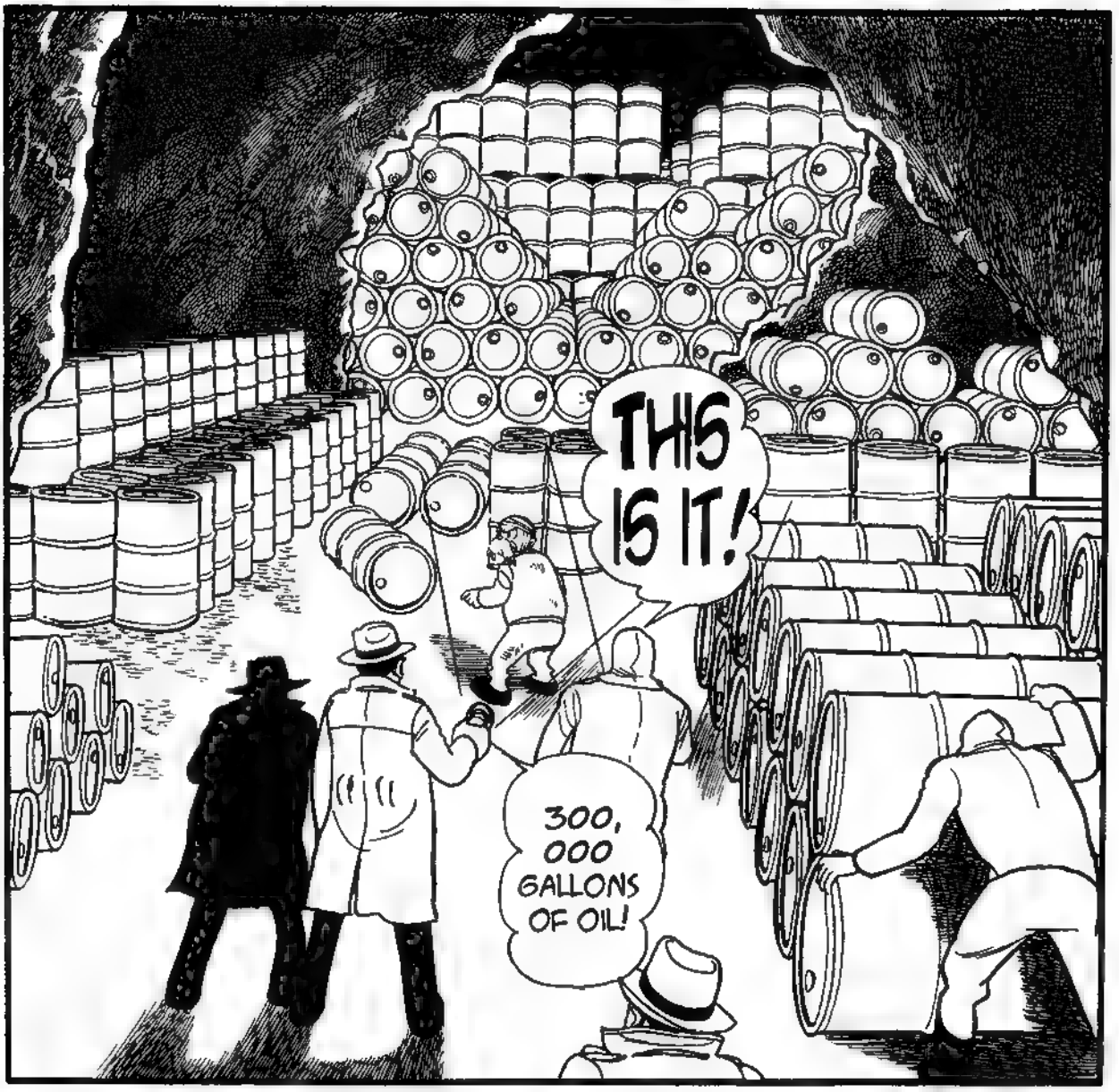


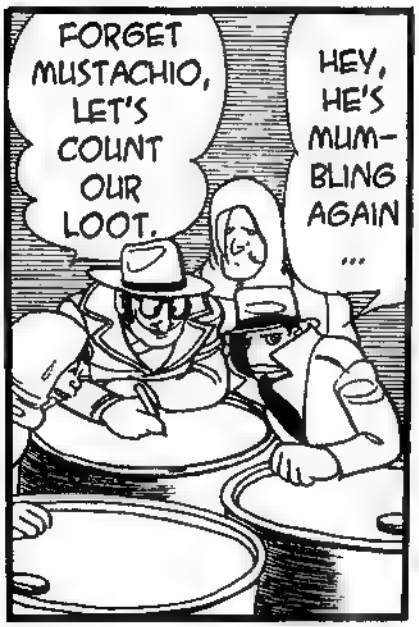

THE WATER-FALL? GUYS, CHECK IT OUT.


YES, HERE. THIS IS WHERE THE BARGE DOCKED. WE UNLOADED THE DRUMS OF OIL... INTO THE WATERFALL!


THEY MADE IT LOOK SO REAL.
NO WONDER IT'S BEEN SEALED 30 YEARS.
WE'D BLOW UP THE LOOT, MORON.
LET'S BLAST IT OPEN.
USE THE DRILL. NOW GET TO IT!
HEY! THE ROCK FACE HERE IS MADE OF CONCRETE!
D-D-D-D
TSK! WHATTA CHORE...


ONCE ALL THE GASOLINE WAS CARRIED INTO THE CAVE, WE RETURNED TO OUR SHIPS.
THERE, A HOLE. WE CAN GO IN.
WE'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
OILY SMELL ...
BOSS, COME SEE THIS! WE'VE HIT THE MOTHER LODE!
THE AMERICANS WOULD NEVER FIND THE PLACE, THE STAFF OFFICER SAID. IF JAPAN ITSELF BECAME A BATTLEGROUND, WE'D HAVE A LAST BASTION.
IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO HIM. NICE.


THIS IS IT!
300,000 GALLONS OF OIL!


FORGET MUSTACHIO, LET'S COUNT OUR LOOT.
HEY, HE'S MUM-BLING AGAIN ...


JAPAN A BATTLE-GROUND? NUTS!
I WAS CERTAIN WE'D LOSE THE WAR.


YESSIR! OUR HOARD!
IT'S OURS AT LAST! ALL 300,000 GALLONS OF IT!
HA HA HA HA


I TOOK A CANDLE.
CANDLE...! YES, I WAS GOING TO SET IT ALL ABLAZE... USING A CANDLE.
I... TRIED TO SNEAK BACK TO THE CAVE... ALONE.
WHAT...
THAT I SET THIS ABLAZE. I SIMPLY MUST.
IT'S FOR JAPAN
MUSTACHIO, STOP THIS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THEN—A BLOW TO MY HEAD. I'M DROPPED INTO THE SEA... IT WAS THE STAFF OFFICER.
I RECALL NOW.
WATCH OUT!
STOP THIS!

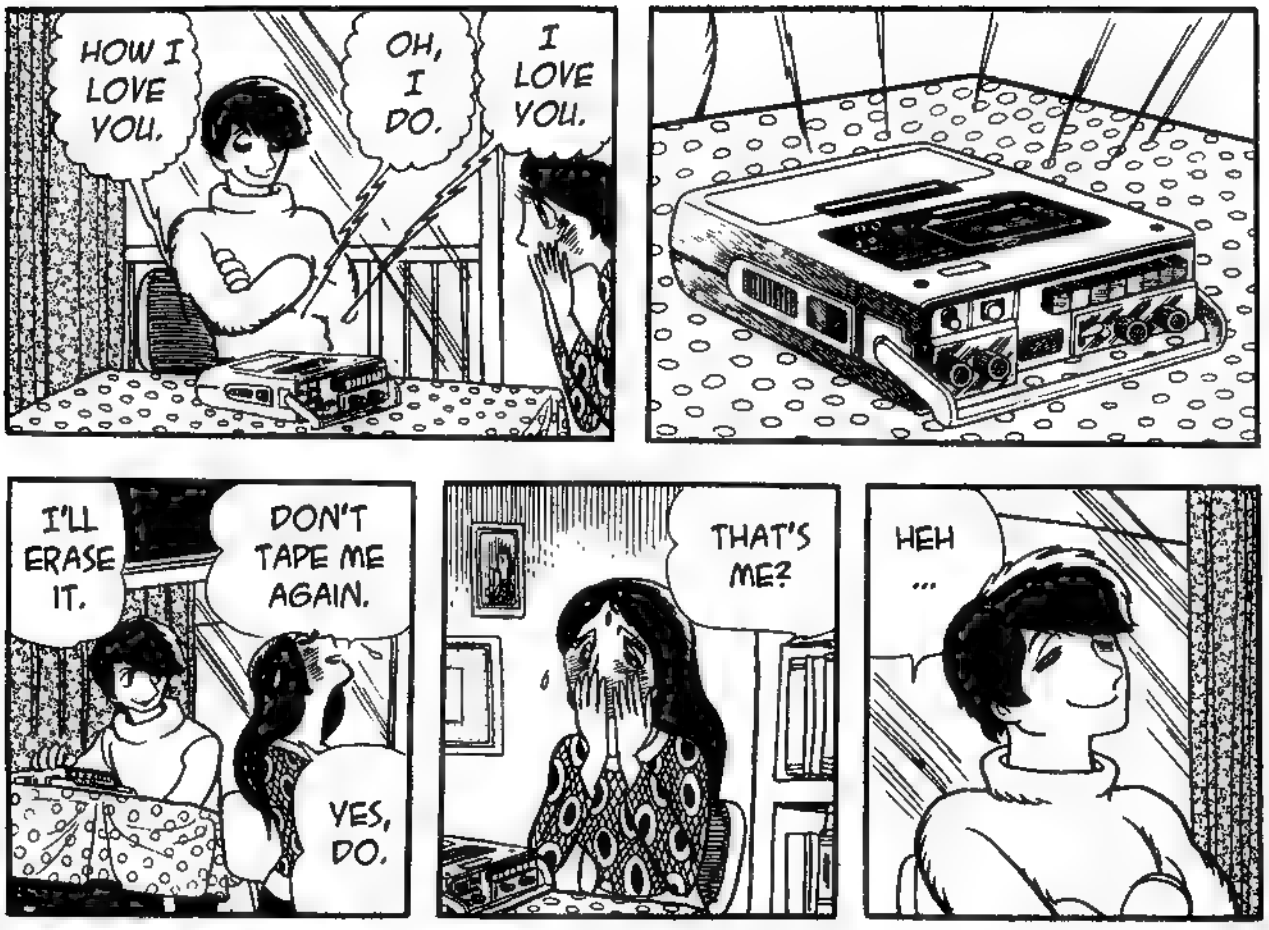
NOTE: THE VILLAIN BOSS IS "PLAYED" BY THE TEZUKA FIXTURE *ACETYLENE LAMP*, WHO IS OFTEN PICTURED WITH A CANDLE ON HIS HEAD (SEE P. 36, FOR INSTANCE). HERE, IN A STUNNING GAG, THE CANDLE IS REAL.

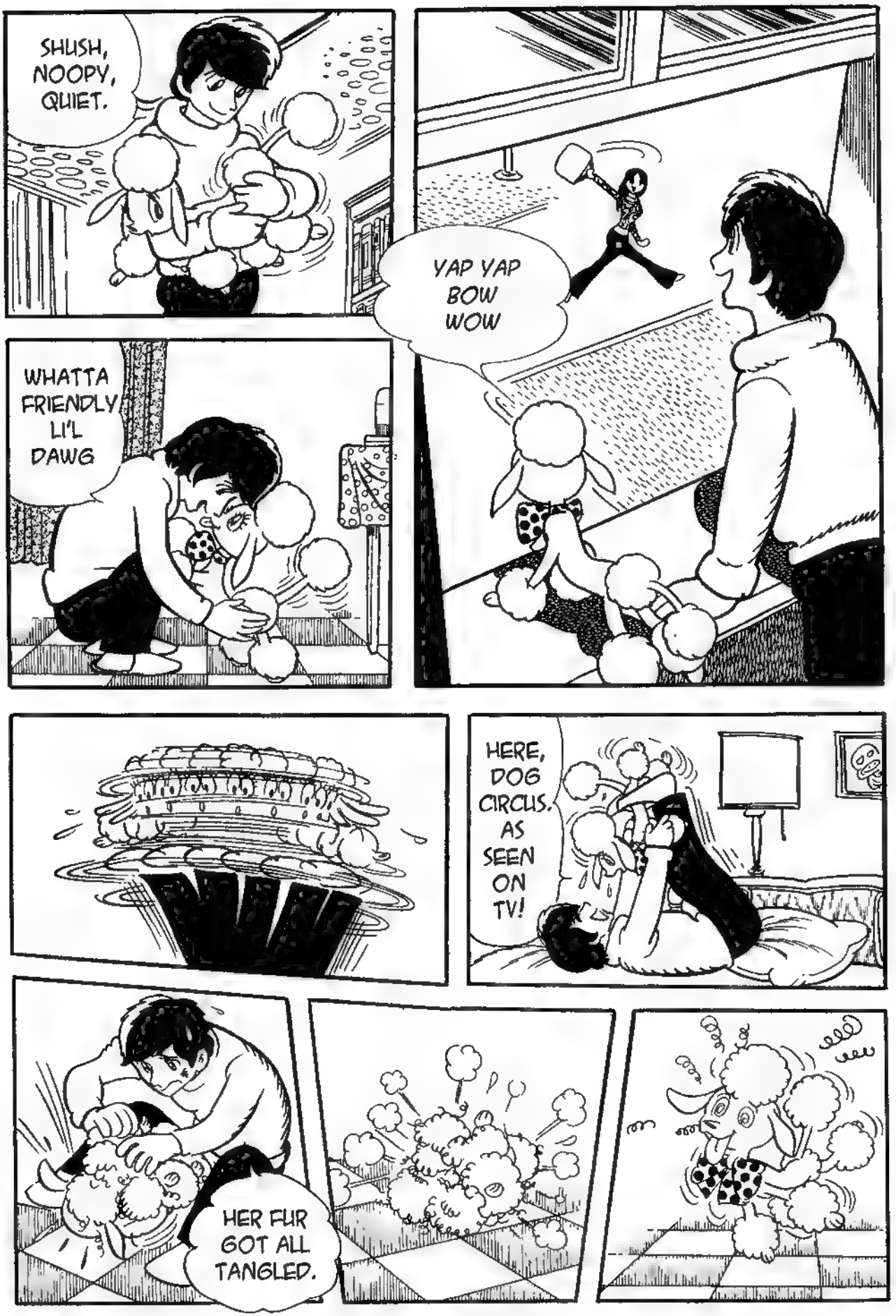

AAAAH
EEK
HAH, CAN'T OBLIGE.
ドム
BOOM!!
ドウ
BGOOM

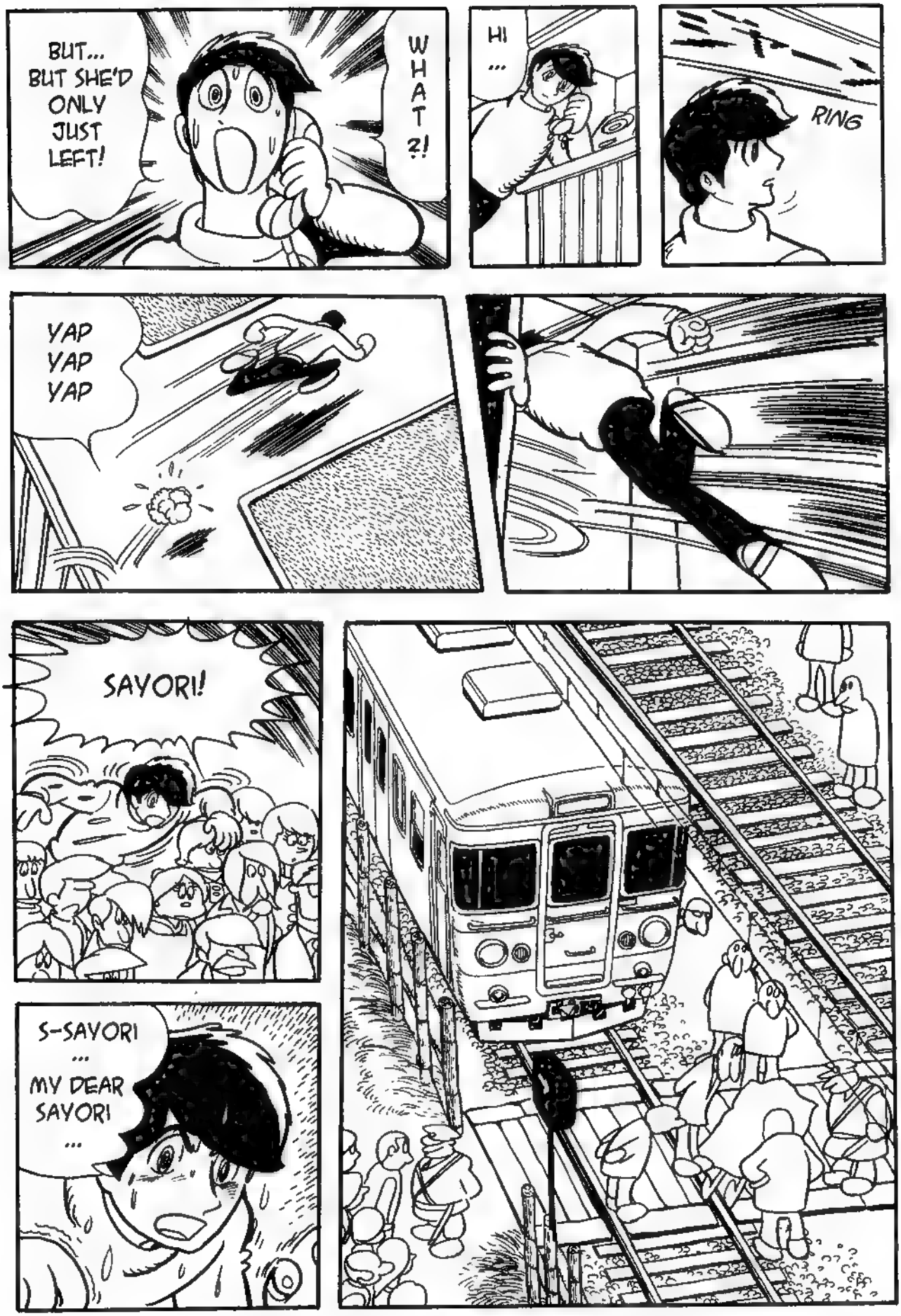

LET ME TELL YOU, KID.
NOOO, DON'T KILL GRAMPS !!
PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF.
WHEN LOST MEMORIES RETURN, PEOPLE SOMETIMES
AS HE JUST DID.
D-DOOM
I FEARED AS MUCH.
LOOK AT THAT.
AIEEE !!

THE WHISPERS OF A DOG


IF ANYONE TRIES TO TEAR US APART...
I'D DIE.
I'LL KILL HIM.
I LOVE YOU ...
OH, I DO.
HOW I LOVE YOU.
TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU ...
HEY, GET AWAY!
NNH
NNH


HOW I LOVE YOU.
OH, I DO.
I LOVE YOU.
I'LL ERASE IT.
DON'T TAPE ME AGAIN.
YES, DO.
THAT'S ME?
HEH ...
NOOPY, BE NICE AND QUIET.
I'LL GO BUY STUFF FOR TONIGHT.
JUST EXCITED, I BET.
SHE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE WHEN I'M WITH YOU. IS SHE JEALOUS?


SHUSH, NOOPY, QUIET.
YAP YAP BOW WOW
WHATTA FRIENDLY LI'L DAWG
HERE, DOG CIRCUS. AS SEEN ON TV!
HER FUR GOT ALL TANGLED.

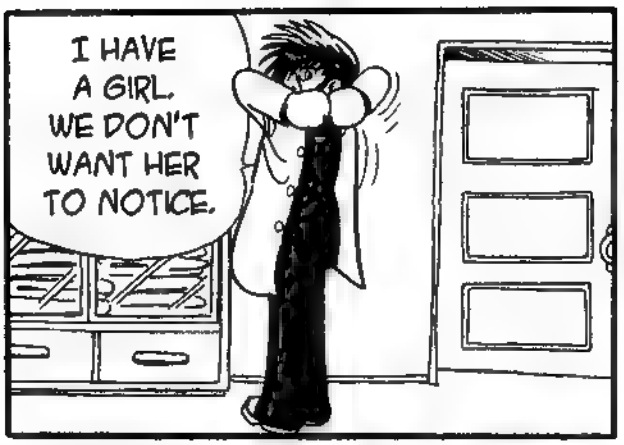

BUT... BUT SHE'D ONLY JUST LEFT!
WHAT?!
HI ...
RING
YAP YAP YAP
SAYORI!
S-SAYORI ... MY DEAR SAYORI ...

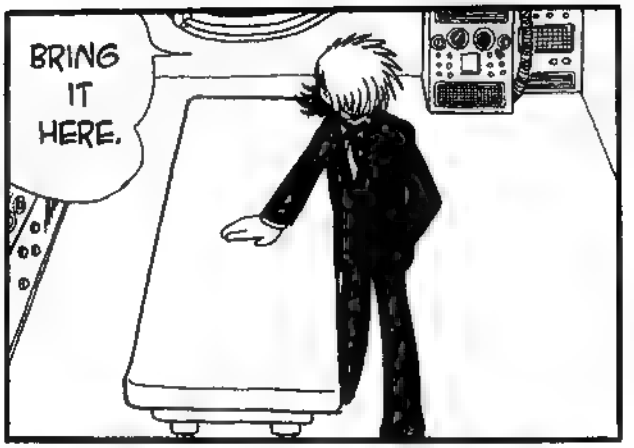

OH, LET ME TAKE YOUR PLACE...!!
WHY DID YOU DIE?
JUST BRING HER BACK!
SHUT UP!
IGNORED THE SIGNAL.
BOW BOW HNNN
MAYBE HER HEART'S STOPPED, BUT IF HER BRAIN IS ALIVE...
WASN'T SHE HIT BY A TRAIN? HER BRAIN'S MUSH.
IS THIS SOME JOKE? I CAN'T REVIVE DEAD PEOPLE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PAY.
DR. BLACK JACK, MY NAME IS TADAAKI ABENOKOJI. MY DEAREST BELOVED IS DEAD. PLEASE SAVE HER. I'LL PAY!

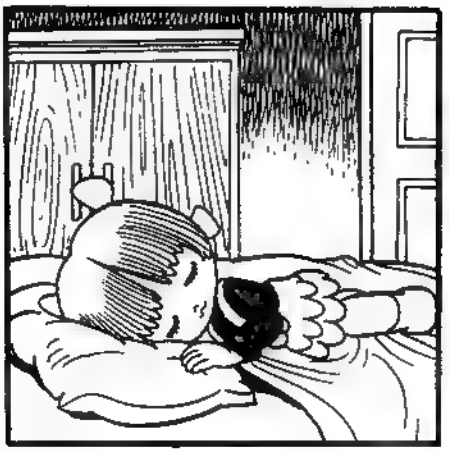

AREN'T YOU THE GENIUS SURGEON? WHY WON'T YOU HELP ME?
I KNOW ABOUT YOU FROM A FRIEND.
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS
BUT I CAN'T BE OF USE.
カチャリ
KTING
SOME THINGS YOUR ANTICS WON'T GET.
UH, YOUR HIGHNESS, WHOEVER'S RICH BRAT YOU ARE,
HI, IT'S ME AGAIN. COULD YOU AT LEAST OPERATE ON A DOG? IT'S A PUPPY SHE ADORED.
DID IT GET HURT TOO?
DOES HE THINK I'M JESUS CHRIST?
BRING BACK THE DEAD?
RICH KID WON'T GIVE UP.
RRING


I WANT THE DOG TO SPEAK IN HER VOICE!
HUH?
I WANT YOU TO... ALTER IT.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR SAVING THAT.
ARE YOU STUPID?!
...
I'VE THIS TAPE WITH HER VOICE. COULD YOU IMPLANT A MINIATURE TAPE IN HER THROAT?
WHEN I SEE NOOPY, I ALWAYS THINK OF HER. AND NOOPY'S QUITE FOND OF ME.
MAKE IT SO THAT HER VOICE IS REPLAYED WHENEVER NOOPY BARKS?

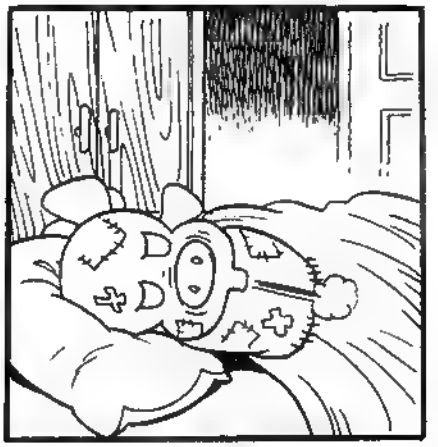

THINK ABOUT THE DOG FOR A MOMENT.
BUT THAT'S CALLED ANIMAL ABUSE.
THE DEVICE WOULD BE SIMPLE,
I'M NOT GAME.
WELL, YES ...
TINKER WITH A DOG.
I COULD BRING MORE.
HERE'S THREE MILLION YEN.
PLEASE, I WANT TO CARE FOR NOOPY AS I CARED FOR SAVORI.
JUST FOR ONE YEAR.
ONE YEAR !!
HAH... HUMAN EGOTISM.
SINCE YOU INSIST.
OKAY. THAT WILL DO.
YOU BRING HER BACK, I DO ONE MORE OP.
DEAL IS WE RESTORE HER AFTER A YEAR.


I HAVE A GIRL. WE DON'T WANT HER TO NOTICE.

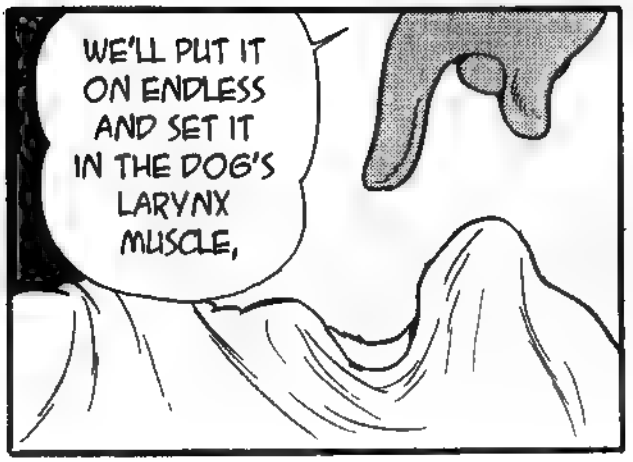

BRING IT HERE.

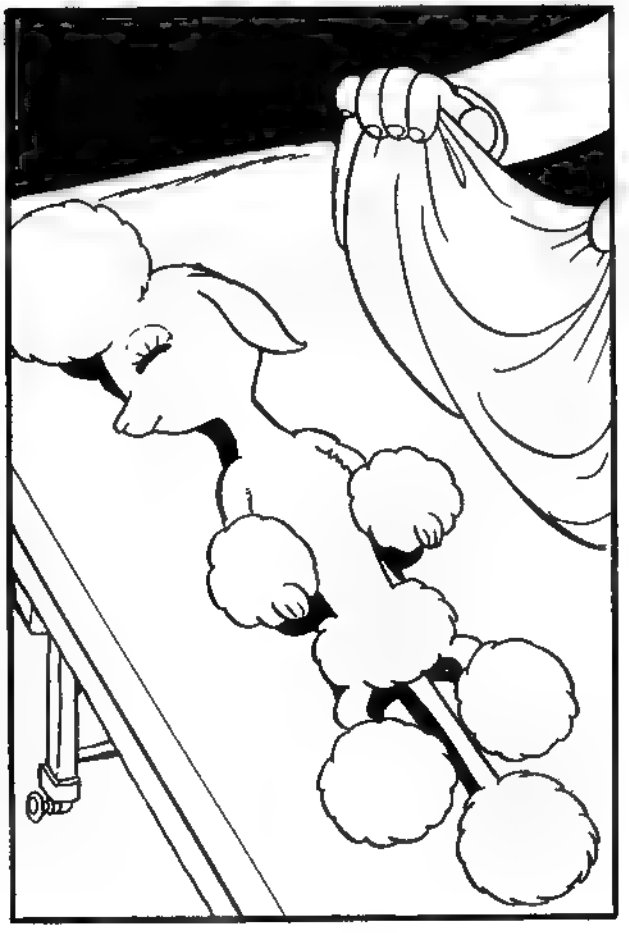


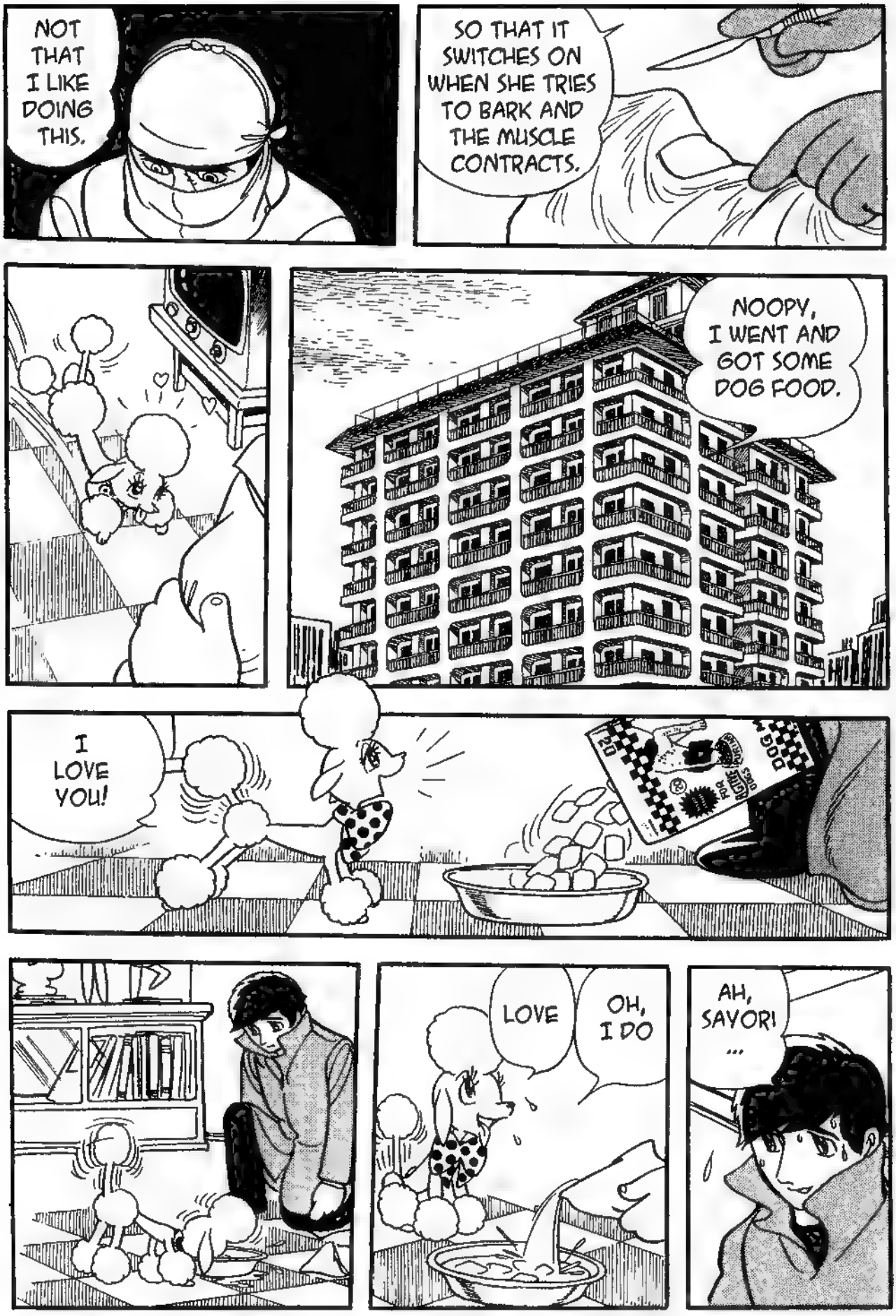

AT YER ERROR.




A SUPER-MINI TAPE PLAYER. WE'LL RECORD HER VOICE ON THIS.
THIS THING WAS MADE BY THE CIA.


WE'LL PUT IT ON ENDLESS AND SET IT IN THE DOG'S LARYNX MUSCLE,

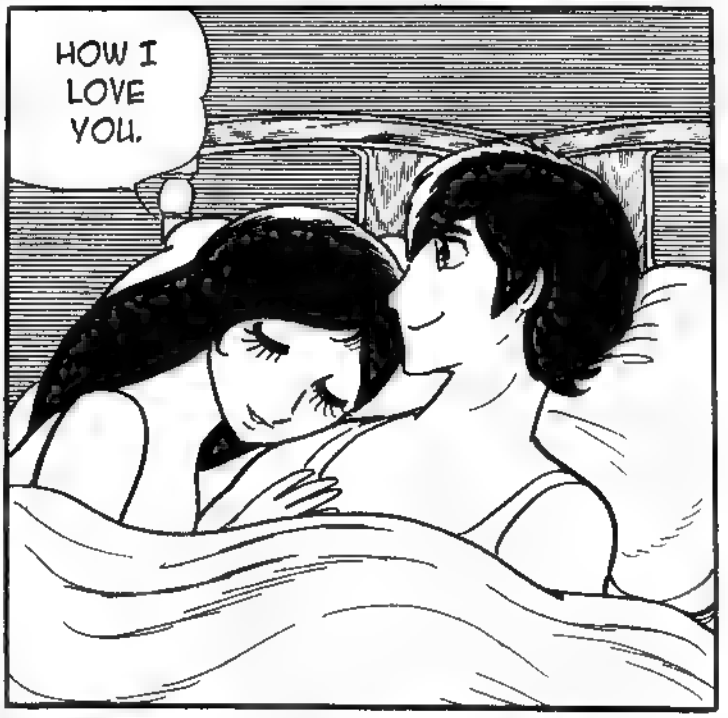



NOT THAT I LIKE DOING THIS.
SO THAT IT SWITCHES ON WHEN SHE TRIES TO BARK AND THE MUSCLE CONTRACTS.
NOOPY, I WENT AND GOT SOME DOG FOOD.
I LOVE YOU!
LOVE
OH, I DO
AH, SAYORI ...


HOW I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU FOR A DAY, EITHER.
SAYORI !!
HMM... CONFUSING.
HEY !
I LOVE YOU.
COME HERE, NOOPY.


TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU.
LIKE THIS, I CAN ENJOY THE ILLUSION THAT SAYORI IS LYING RIGHT NEXT TO ME.

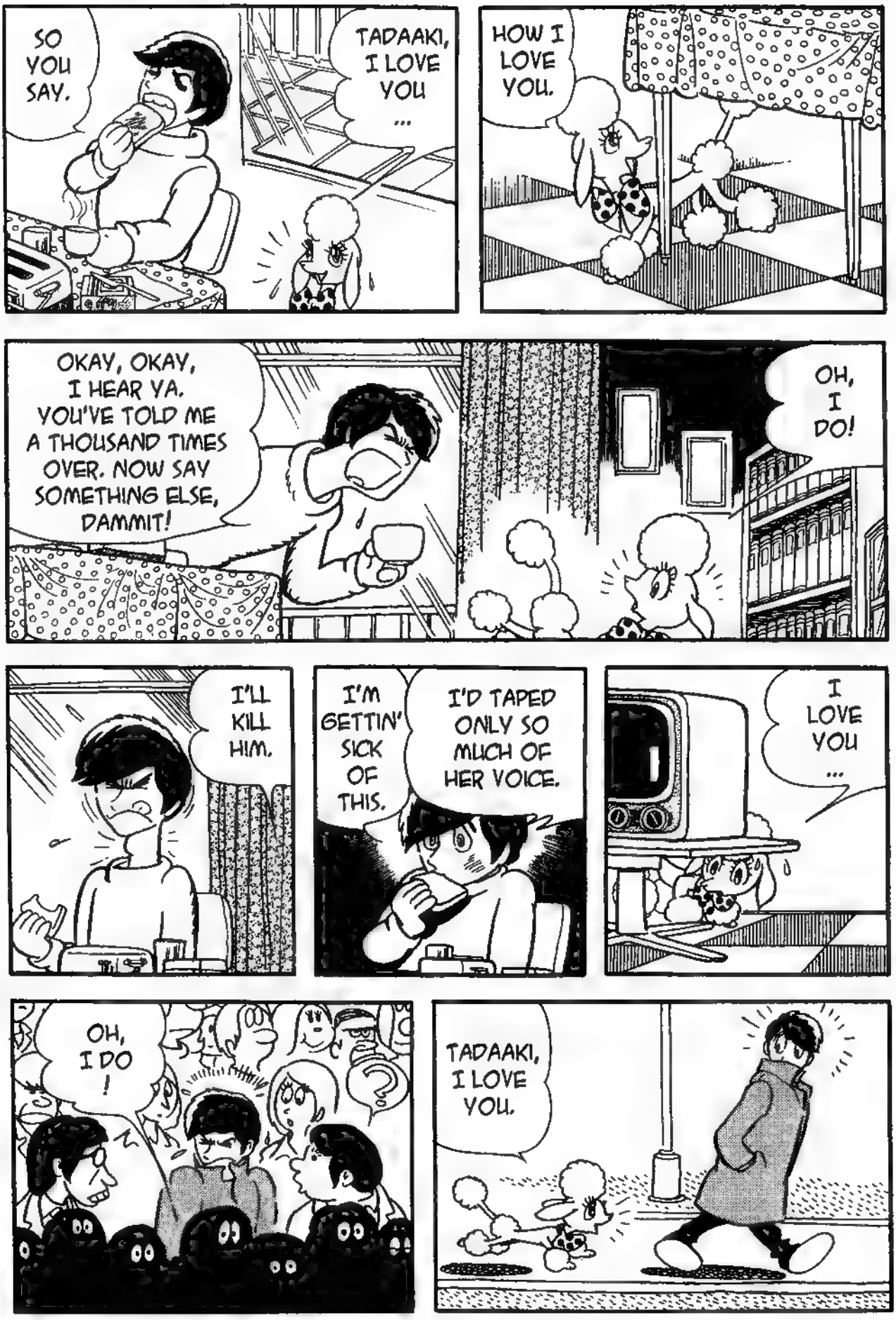

OY...
DON'T BITE FOR REAL!
HUG


HOW I LOVE YOU.


YIKES, I THOUGHT I'D ERASED MY PART.

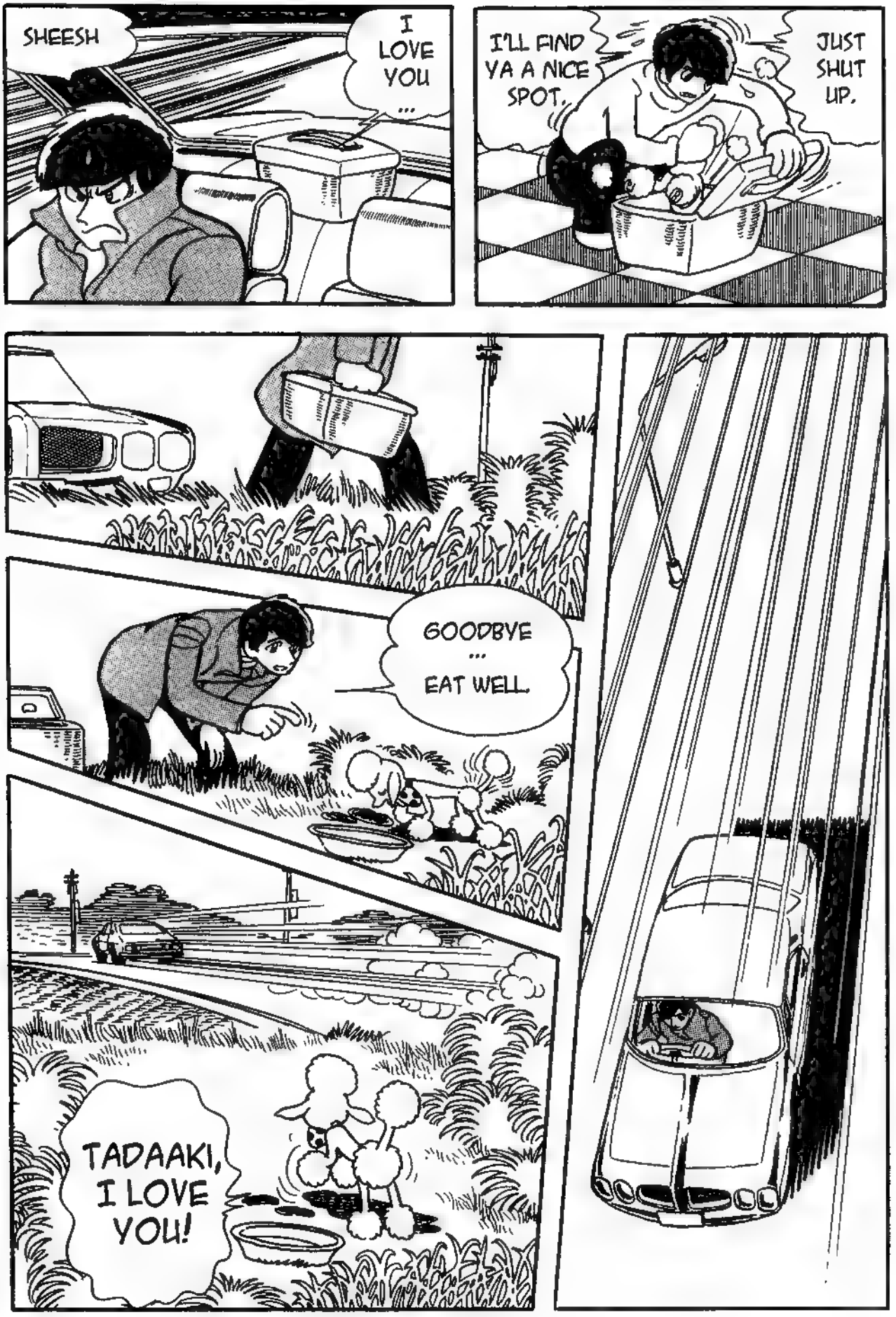

THAT'S MY VOICE ...
HOLY ...

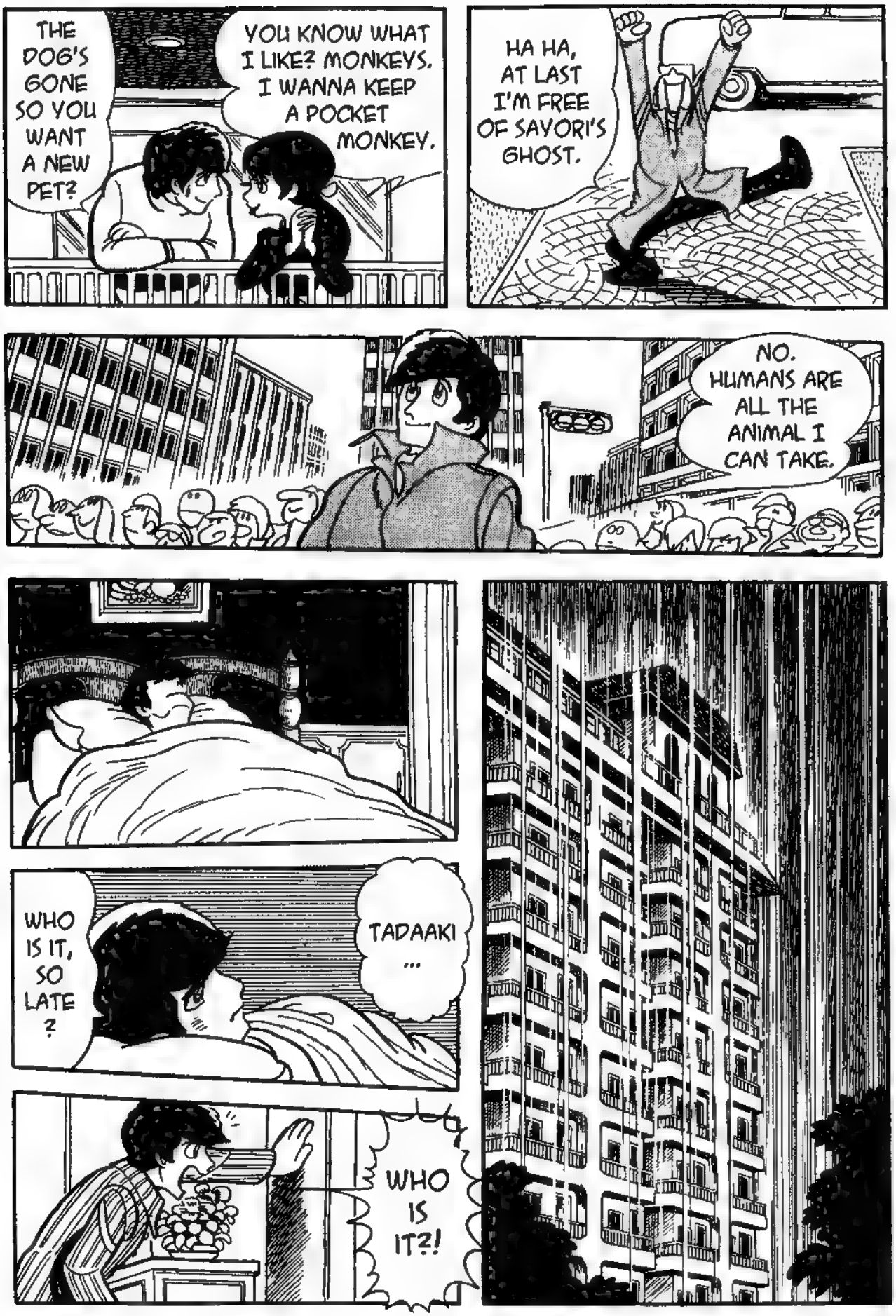

I'LL KILL HIM.


SO YOU SAY.
TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU ...
HOW I LOVE YOU.
OKAY, OKAY, I HEAR YA. YOU'VE TOLD ME A THOUSAND TIMES OVER. NOW SAY SOMETHING ELSE, DAMMIT!
OH, I DO!
I'LL KILL HIM.
I'M GETTIN' SICK OF THIS.
I'D TAPED ONLY SO MUCH OF HER VOICE.
I LOVE YOU ...
OH, I DO!
TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU.


OH, I DO
I LOVE YOU
UGH, SAYORI'S VOICE IS RINGING IN MY HEAD.
DON'T FOLLOW ME.
SHH !
I'LL KILL HIM!
EEEP
I LOVE YOU.
YOU ARE— YOU'RE MY FIRST.
I BET I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
STAY THE HELL OUT ... BITCH.
TADA-AKI, I LOVE YOU.

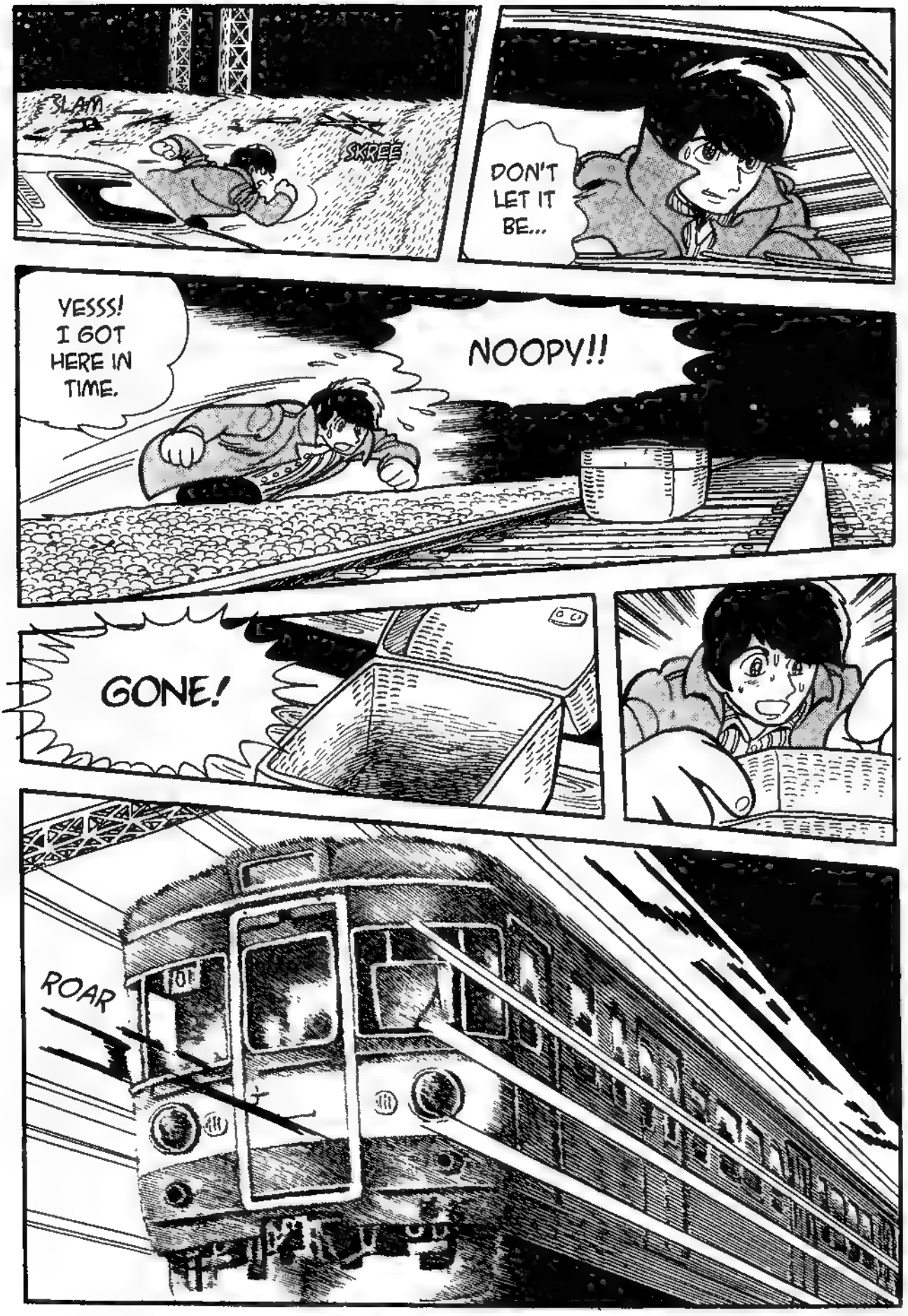

I THOUGHT IF A DOG COULD SPEAK, YOU KNOW?
LOVE
OH MY GAWD.
THIS IS CREEPY!
OH, I DO.
SHOO WITH IT. I DON'T LIKE DOGS!
GROSS
DON'T EVER GET NEAR US AGAIN!
CHUCK IT SOME PLACE FAR AWAY.
MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL... IT'S A WOMAN'S VOICE. WHOSE IS IT?
TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU.
ALL RIGHT, NOOPY, COME!
HOW I LOVE YOU.

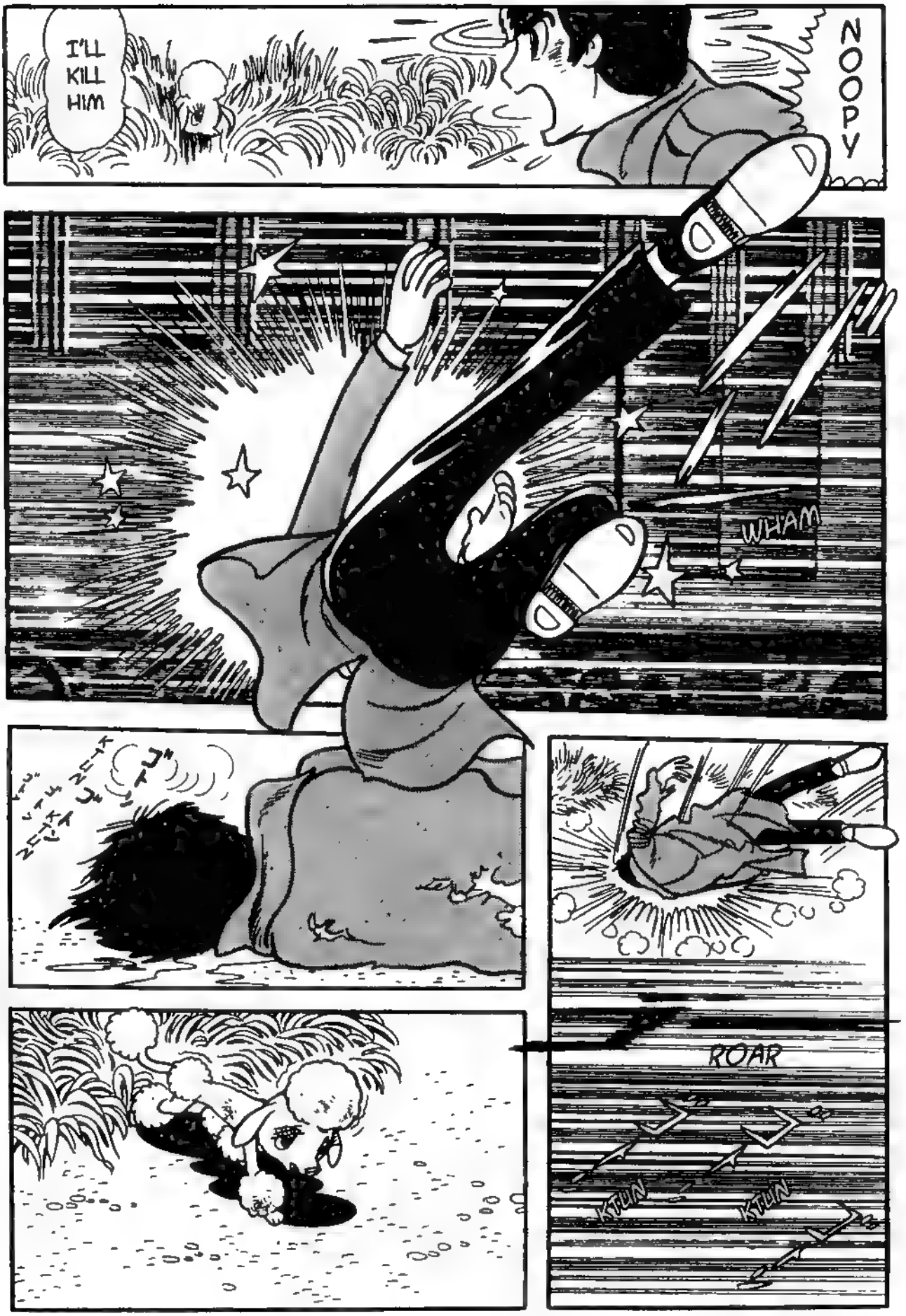

SHEESH
I LOVE YOU ...
I'LL FIND YA A NICE SPOT.
JUST SHUT UP.
GOODBYE ... EAT WELL.
TADAAKI, I LOVE YOU!

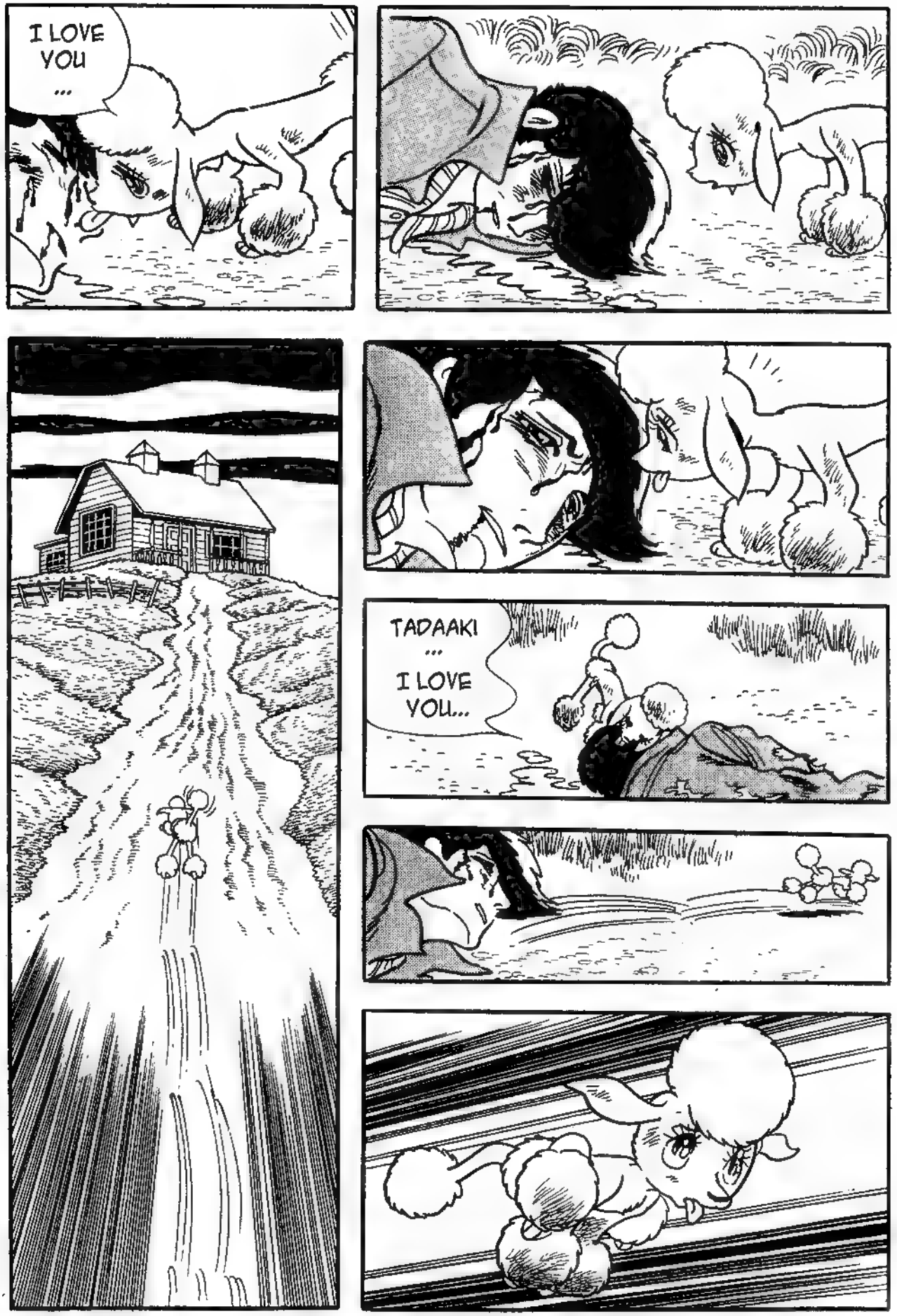

THE DOG'S GONE SO YOU WANT A NEW PET?
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE? MONKEYS. I WANNA KEEP A POCKET MONKEY.
HA HA, AT LAST I'M FREE OF SAVORI'S GHOST.
NO. HUMANS ARE ALL THE ANIMAL I CAN TAKE.
WHO IS IT, SO LATE ?
TADAAKI ...
WHO IS IT?!


NOOPY!
IT'S YOU?
I LOVE YOU ...
I LOVE YOU ...
YOU SPENT THE LAST THREE MONTHS TRYING TO GET BACK?
YOU'RE ALL SKIN AND BONES AND CAKED IN MUD!
IN FACT, WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL IT?
CHUCK IT FARTHER AWAY.
THAT'LL END OUR WORRIES.
THAT DOG MADE IT BACK TO YOUR PLACE?!
I'M NOT COMING OVER WHILE IT'S THERE.
OH, MY. YOU'RE CRAZY.


BROMM
NO WAY I CAN BRING MYSELF TO IT. LEAVING HER HERE OUGHT TO DO IT.
FIRST TRAIN IN TWENTY MINUTES. FORGIVE ME...
I'M AN IDIOT ...
I DON'T HAVE TO KILL HER AT ALL. THE DOC CAN MAKE HER NORMAL AGAIN.
I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
TODAY IS THE DAY... ONE YEAR, TO THE DAY!
WHAT A DUMB FOOL I AM !!
ONE YEAR! WE RESTORE HER AFTER A YEAR. YOU BRING HER BACK, I DO ONE MORE OP.


SLAM
SKREE
DON'T LET IT BE...
YESSS! I GOT HERE IN TIME.
NOOPY!!
GONE!
ROAR


I'LL KILL HIM
NOOPY
WHAM
ROAR
KTUN
KTUN

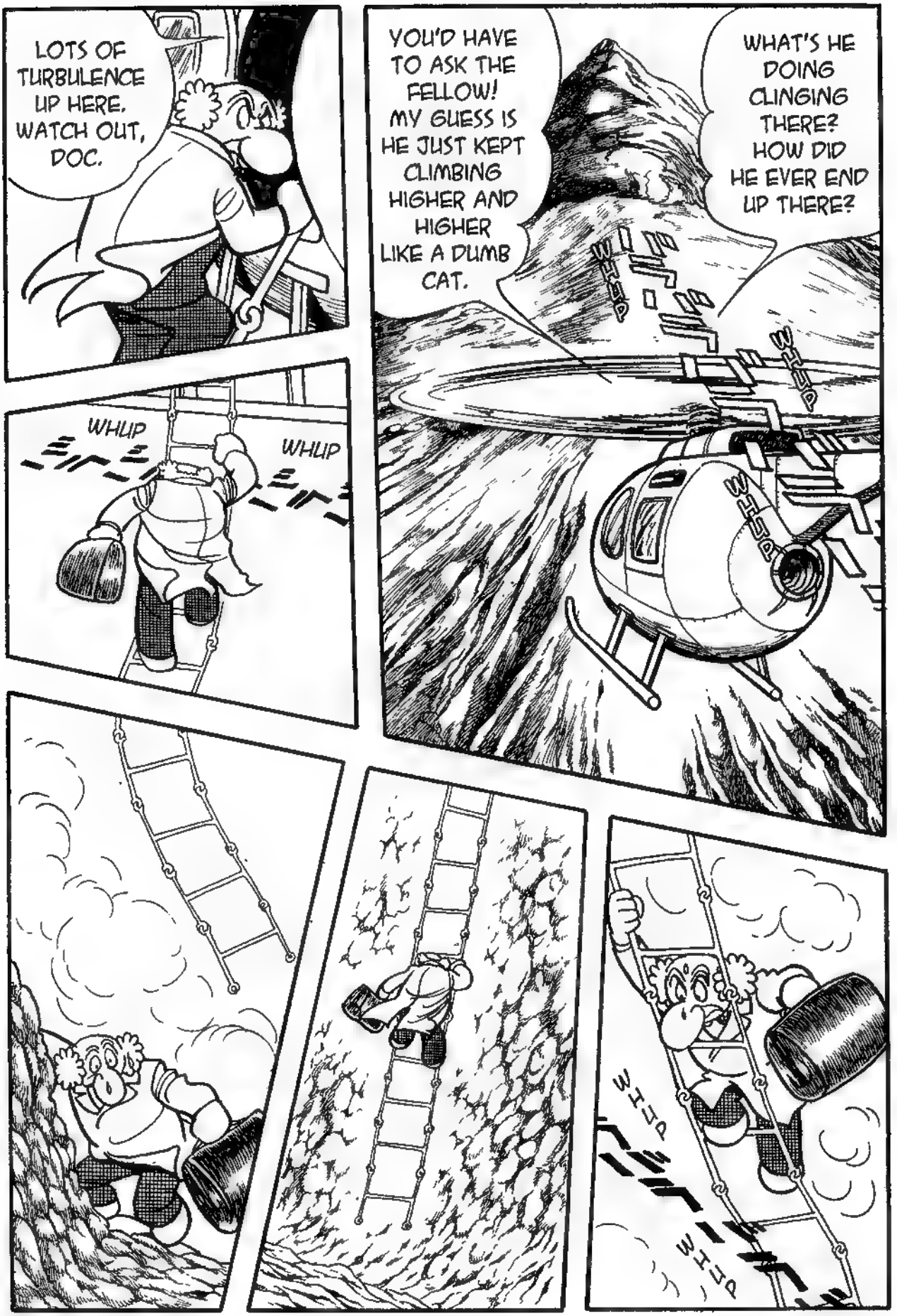

I LOVE YOU ...
TADAAKI ... I LOVE YOU...

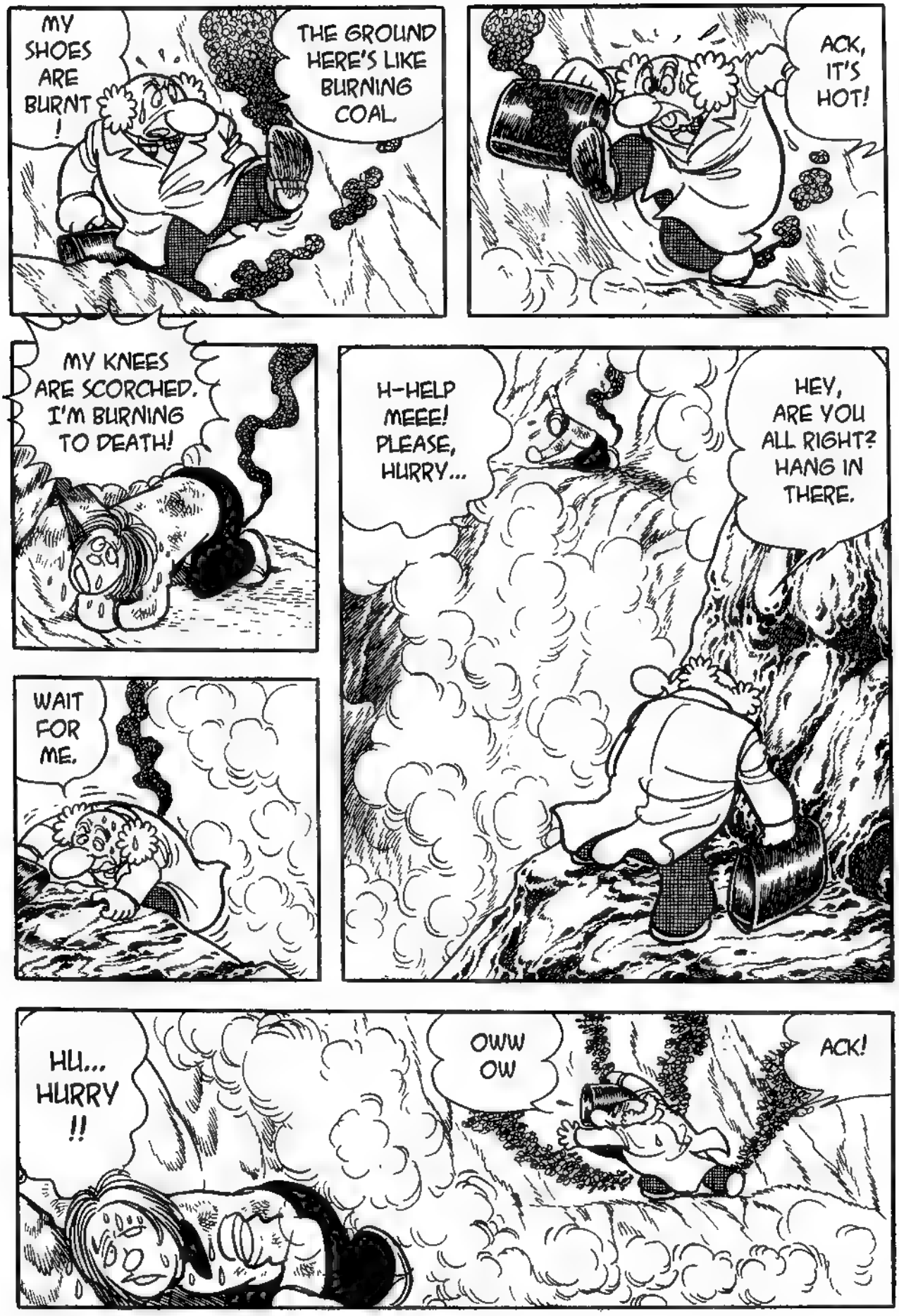
SHOWA SHINZAN



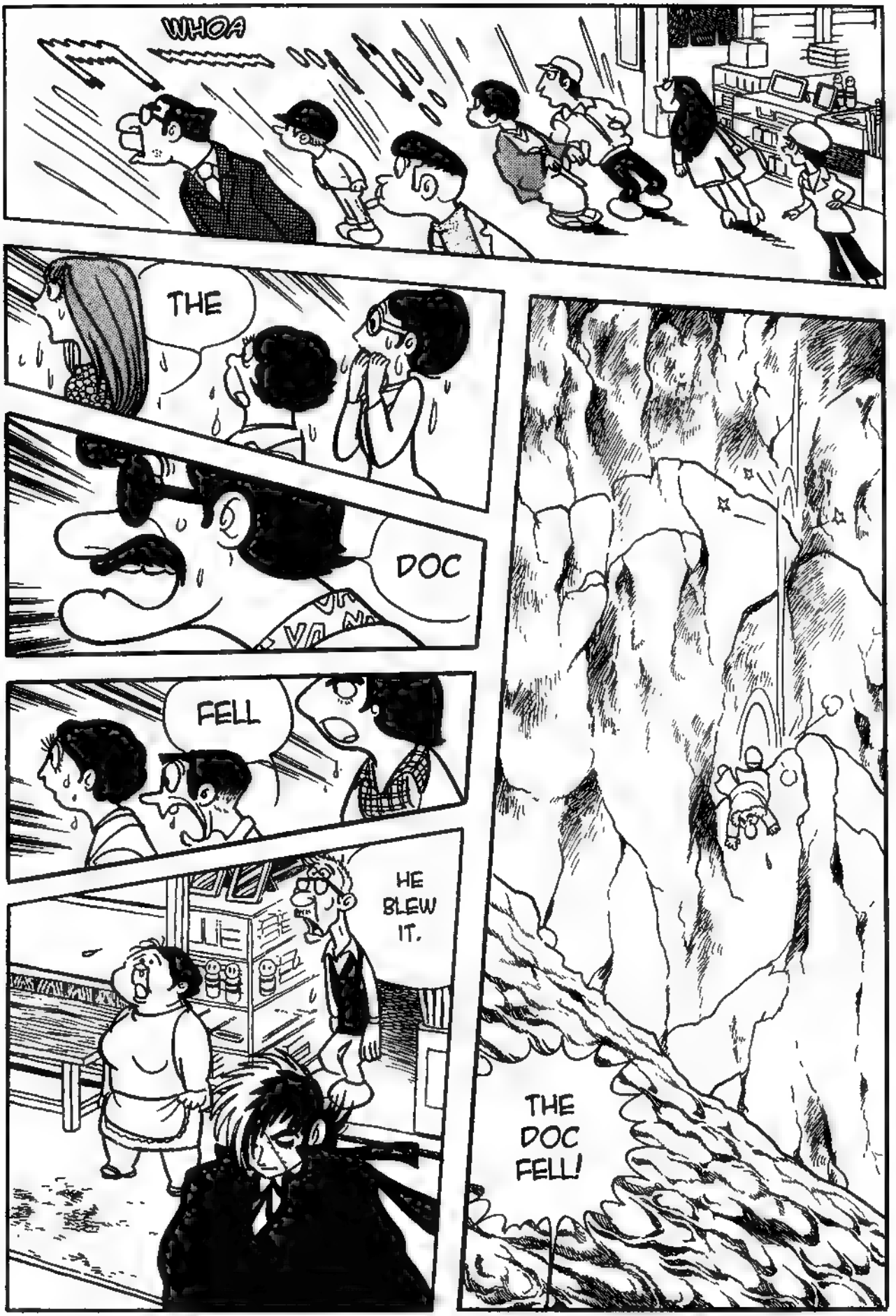
NOTE: THE MOUNTAIN THAT THE TITLE NAMES IS REAL. "SHOWA" REFERS TO THE REIGN OF EMPEROR HIROHITO AND CONNOTES A CONTEMPORARY ORIGIN; "SHINZAN" LITERALLY MEANS *NEW MOUNTAIN*.

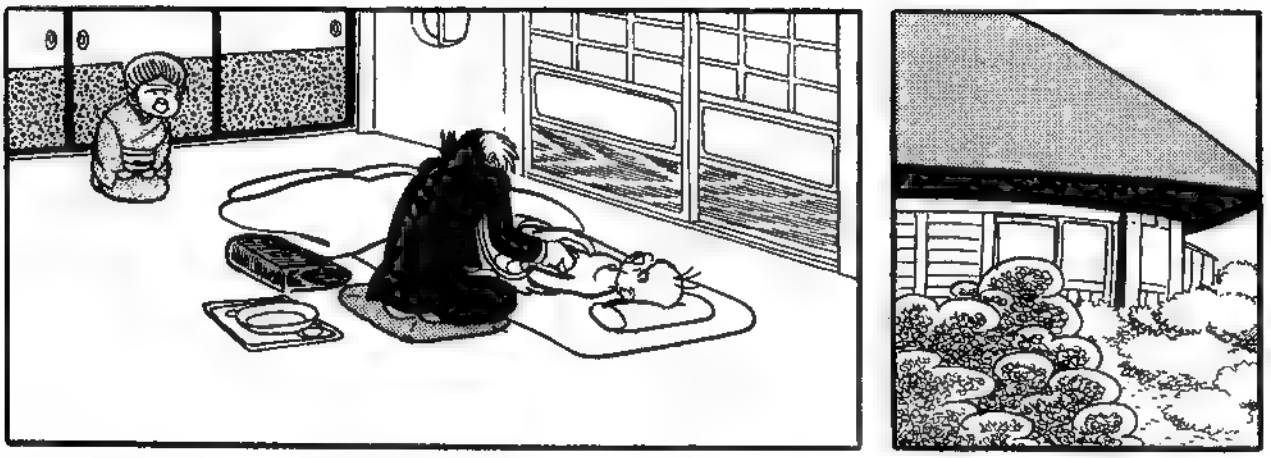

THIS VOLCANO CAME INTO BEING BETWEEN '44 AND '45. IT'S GOTTA BE ONE OF THE YOUNGEST VOLCANOES IN THE WORLD.
WHUP WHUP WHUP
WHUP WHUP WHUP
YOU SEE THAT SLOPE? RIGHT WHERE IT'S STEEP'S WHERE.
SO WHERE'S THIS MAN?
RIGHT OVER THERE.


LOTS OF TURBULENCE UP HERE. WATCH OUT, DOC.
WHUP
WHUP
YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THE FELLOW! MY GUESS IS HE JUST KEPT CLIMBING HIGHER AND HIGHER LIKE A DUMB CAT.
WHAT'S HE DOING CLINGING THERE? HOW DID HE EVER END UP THERE?
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

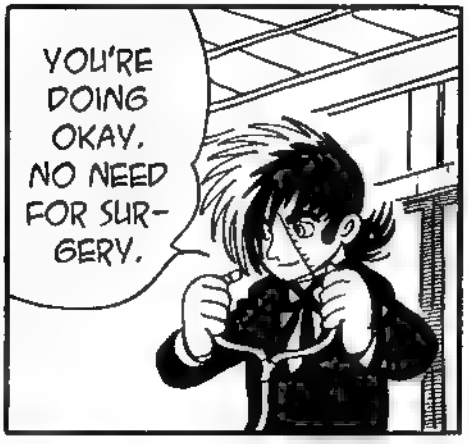

MY SHOES ARE BURNT !
THE GROUND HERE'S LIKE BURNING COAL
ACK, IT'S HOT!
MY KNEES ARE SCORCHED. I'M BURNING TO DEATH!
H-HELP MEEE! PLEASE, HURRY...
HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? HANG IN THERE.
WAIT FOR ME.
HU... HURRY !!
OWW OW
ACK!


A DOCTOR GOT OFF THE CHOPPER ...
WILL THEY BE OK?
AT ANY RATE, THE GUY IS AN IDIOT.
WOEEE
BUT 'TIS THANKS TO THEM WE'RE IN BUSINESS.
HE DON'T CARE ONE BIT.
HE JUST WENT UP, UP, LOOKING FOR SOME RARE STONE.
THOSE YOUNG TOURISTS, ALWAYS TAKING STONES HOME AS SOUVENIRS.

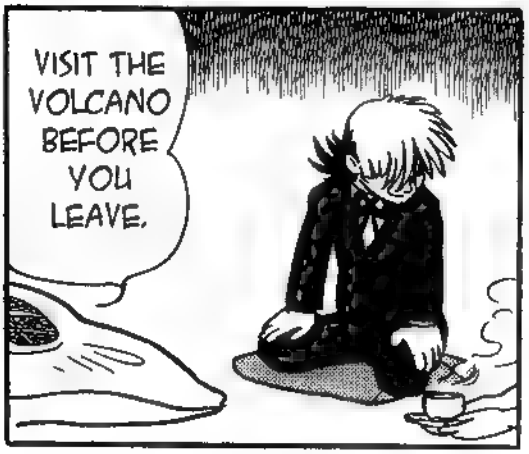

WHOA
THE
DOC
FELL
HE BLEW IT.
THE DOC FELL!




YOU'RE AWFUL KIND FOR ONE SO YOUNG.


YOU'RE DOING OKAY. NO NEED FOR SURGERY.


SO? WILL I LIVE SOME MORE?


VISIT THE VOLCANO BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

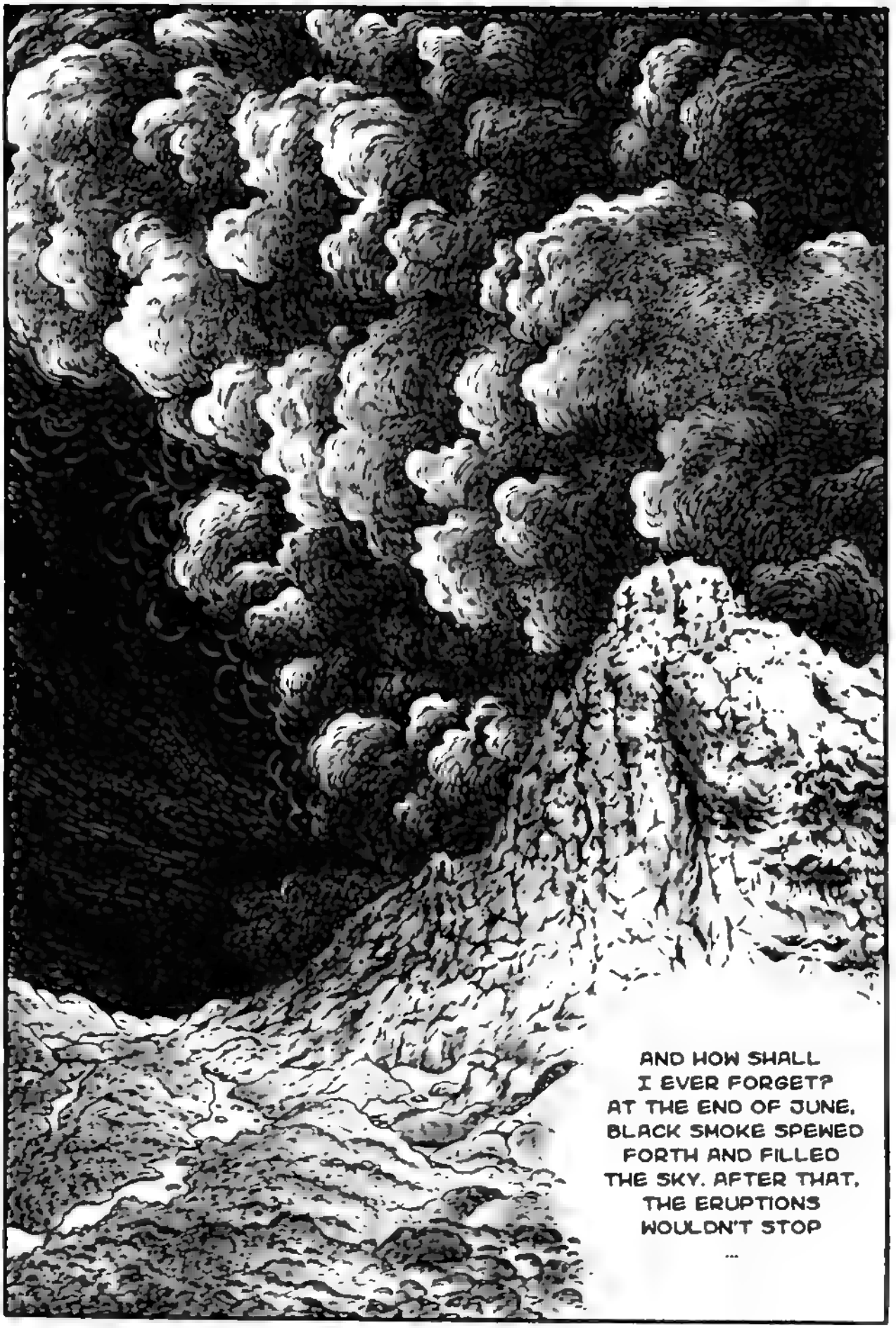

MY SON IN TOKYO KEPT SPEAKING HIGHLY OF YOU. BUT FOR YOU TO COME ALL THE WAY TO DEEP IN HOKKAIDO ...


I WAS AS YOUNG AS YOU ARE NOW ...
FOR US ANYWAY, IT WAS A BIG DEAL.


IS THAT SO.

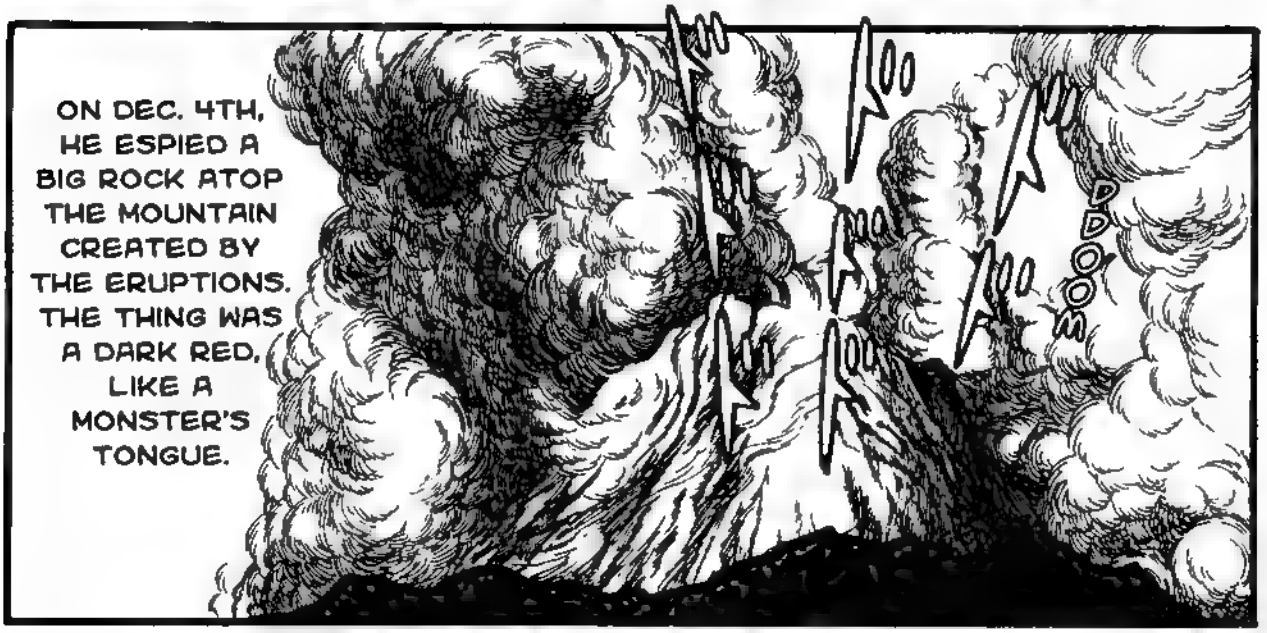

IT'S NOT MY KINDA THING.

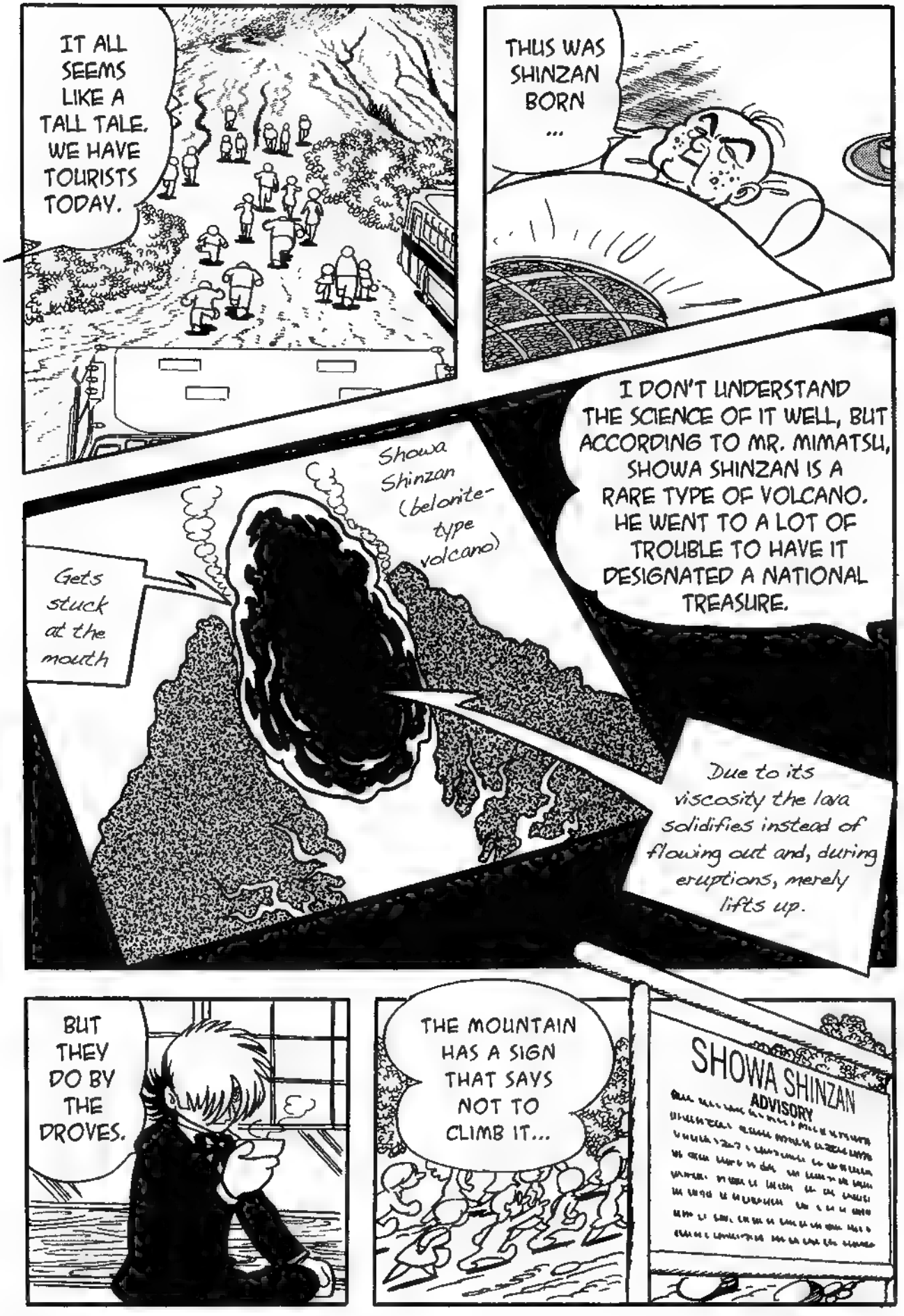

TOWARDS THE END OF THE WAR, THERE WAS ONE QUAKE AFTER ANOTHER. CRACKS APPEARED IN THE FARMING FIELDS THAT COVERED THESE PARTS.
DOOM
CRACK
THE GROUND RUMBLED EVERY DAY; OUR HOUSE LURCHED UP. AT LAST WE RAN AWAY.
LAKES CHURNED AND RIVERS FLOWED UPSTREAM ...
WHIRL

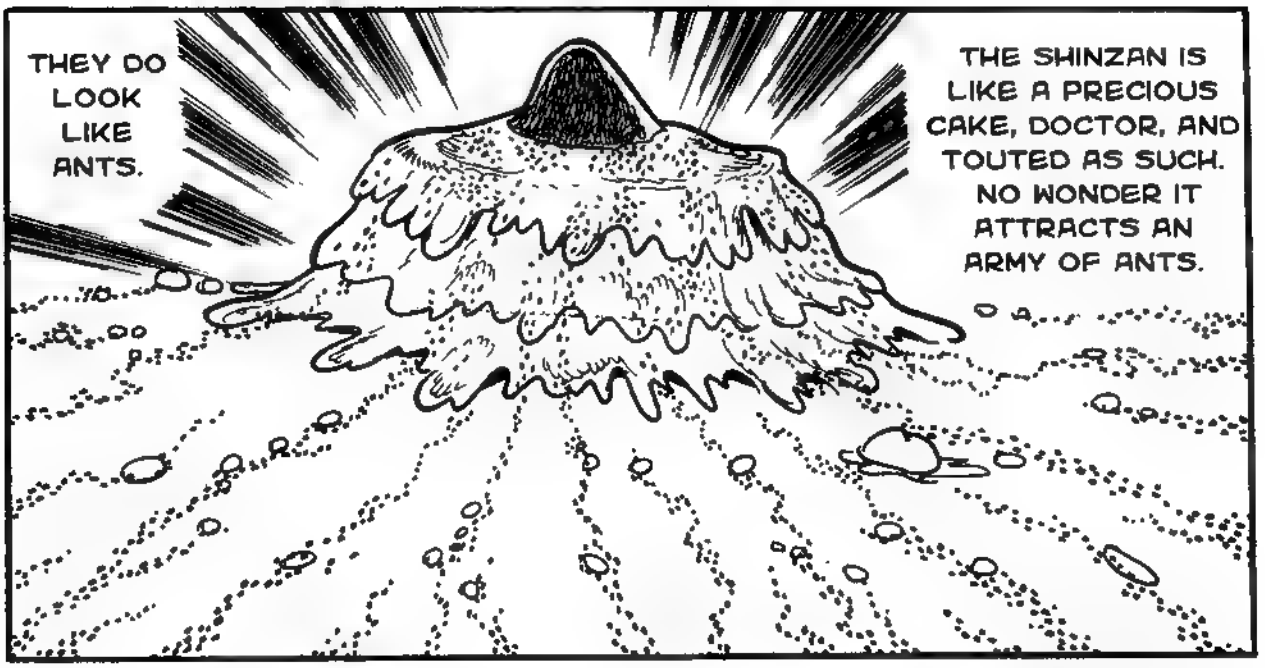

AND HOW SHALL I EVER FORGET? AT THE END OF JUNE, BLACK SMOKE SPEWED FORTH AND FILLED THE SKY. AFTER THAT, THE ERUPTIONS WOULDN'T STOP ...


BUT WHILE THE REST OF US PANICKED, MR. MIMATSU, THE TOWN'S POSTMASTER COOLLY KEPT RECORDS.

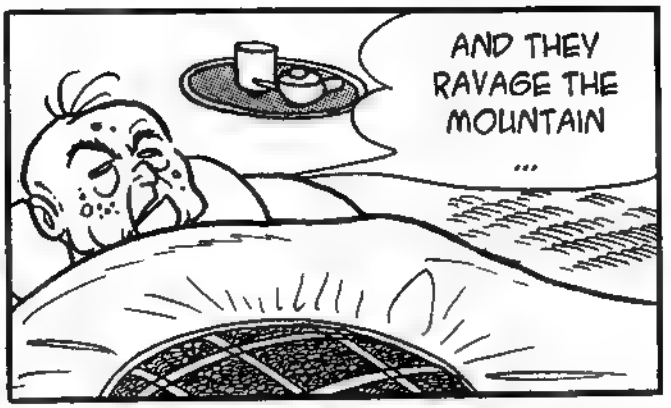

THEN IT RAINED ASHES. GRAY FIELDS, DEAD CROPS AND FISH...


ON DEC. 4TH, HE ESPIED A BIG ROCK ATOP THE MOUNTAIN CREATED BY THE ERUPTIONS. THE THING WAS A DARK RED, LIKE A MONSTER'S TONGUE.
DOOM


IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A TALL TALE. WE HAVE TOURISTS TODAY.
THUS WAS SHINZAN BORN ...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE OF IT WELL, BUT ACCORDING TO MR. MIMATSU, SHOWA SHINZAN IS A RARE TYPE OF VOLCANO. HE WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO HAVE IT DESIGNATED A NATIONAL TREASURE.
Showa Shinzan (belonite-type volcano)
Gets stuck at the mouth
Due to its viscosity the lava solidifies instead of flowing out and, during eruptions, merely lifts up.
BUT THEY DO BY THE DROVES.
THE MOUNTAIN HAS A SIGN THAT SAYS NOT TO CLIMB IT...
SHOWA SHINZAN
ADVISORY


THEY DO LOOK LIKE ANTS.
THE SHINZAN IS LIKE A PRECIOUS CAKE, DOCTOR, AND TOUTED AS SUCH. NO WONDER IT ATTRACTS AN ARMY OF ANTS.


IT PAINS US TO SEE IT.


AND THEY RAVAGE THE MOUNTAIN ...

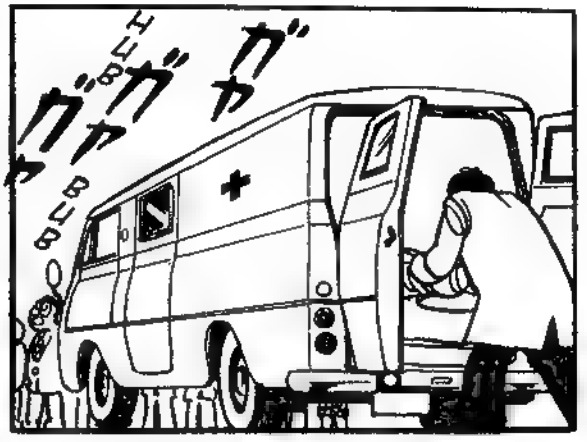


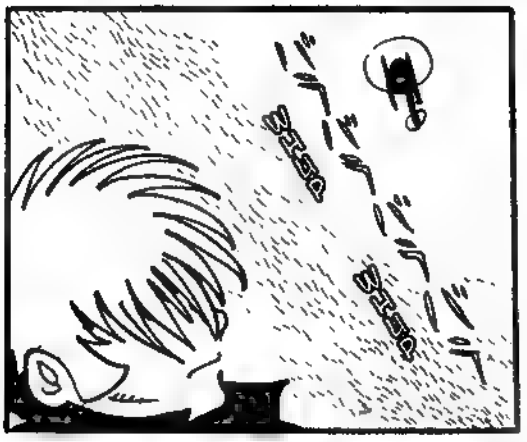



YOU SEE, THAT MOUNTAIN HAS BEEN OUR LIFE. SURE, CLIMB IT, IT'S THERE. BUT ALSO RESPECT IT A LITTLE.

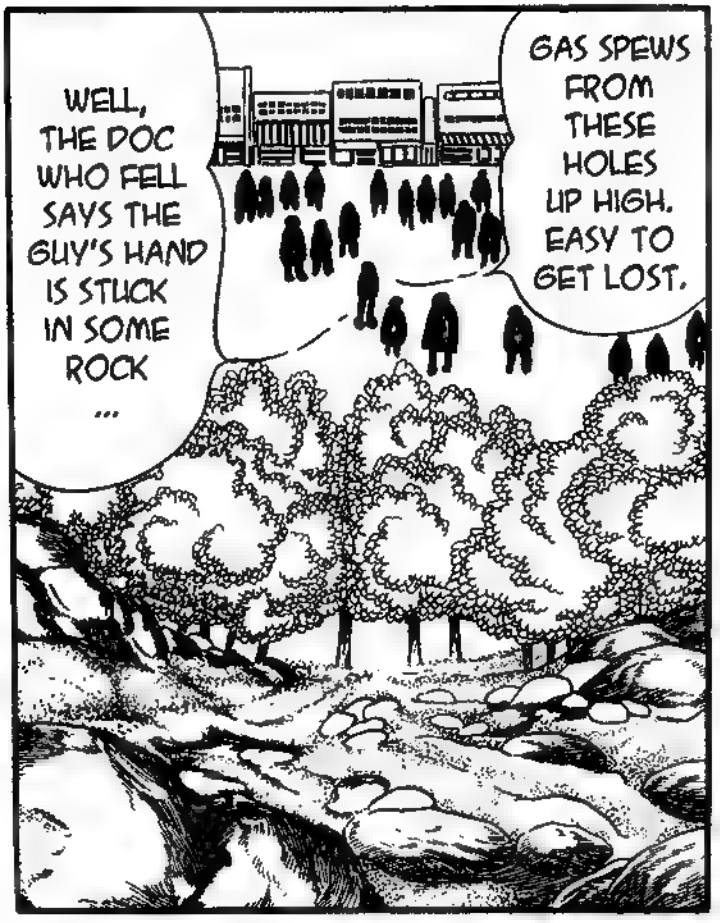



GUY WHO WENT UP FOR SOME RARE STONE GOT STUCK.
WHAT'S THE RUCKUS ABOUT?


HUBB
ガガ
ガ
BUB


BRRR
BRRR


MIGHT AS WELL EARN A RIDE ...


WELL, THE DOC WHO FELL SAYS THE GUY'S HAND IS STUCK IN SOME ROCK ...
GAS SPEWS FROM THESE HOLES UP HIGH. EASY TO GET LOST.


HE'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.
SURGEON, YOU SAY?
PERFECT! THE BACKUP DOC ISN'T DUE FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS.
GROUND TO CHOPPER!
IN EXCHANGE, FLY ME TO THE AIRPORT WHEN THIS IS OVER.
THEN I'LL HAVE TO CUT IT OFF.
AH, YES... IT'S A SMALL HOLE AND HE CAN'T PULL IT OUT.
SO, DOCTOR, APPARENTLY HIS HAND IS STUCK?
THE HELI-COPTER IS HERE!
SURE... BUT HOW DOES ONE PERFORM AN AMPUTATION IN SUCH A HELLISH PLACE?


ODDLY PEACEFUL...
SO MANY MARTINS LIVING AMIDST PLUMES OF STEAM AND GAS ON AN ACTIVE VOLCANO'S PEAK
...
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
STOMP

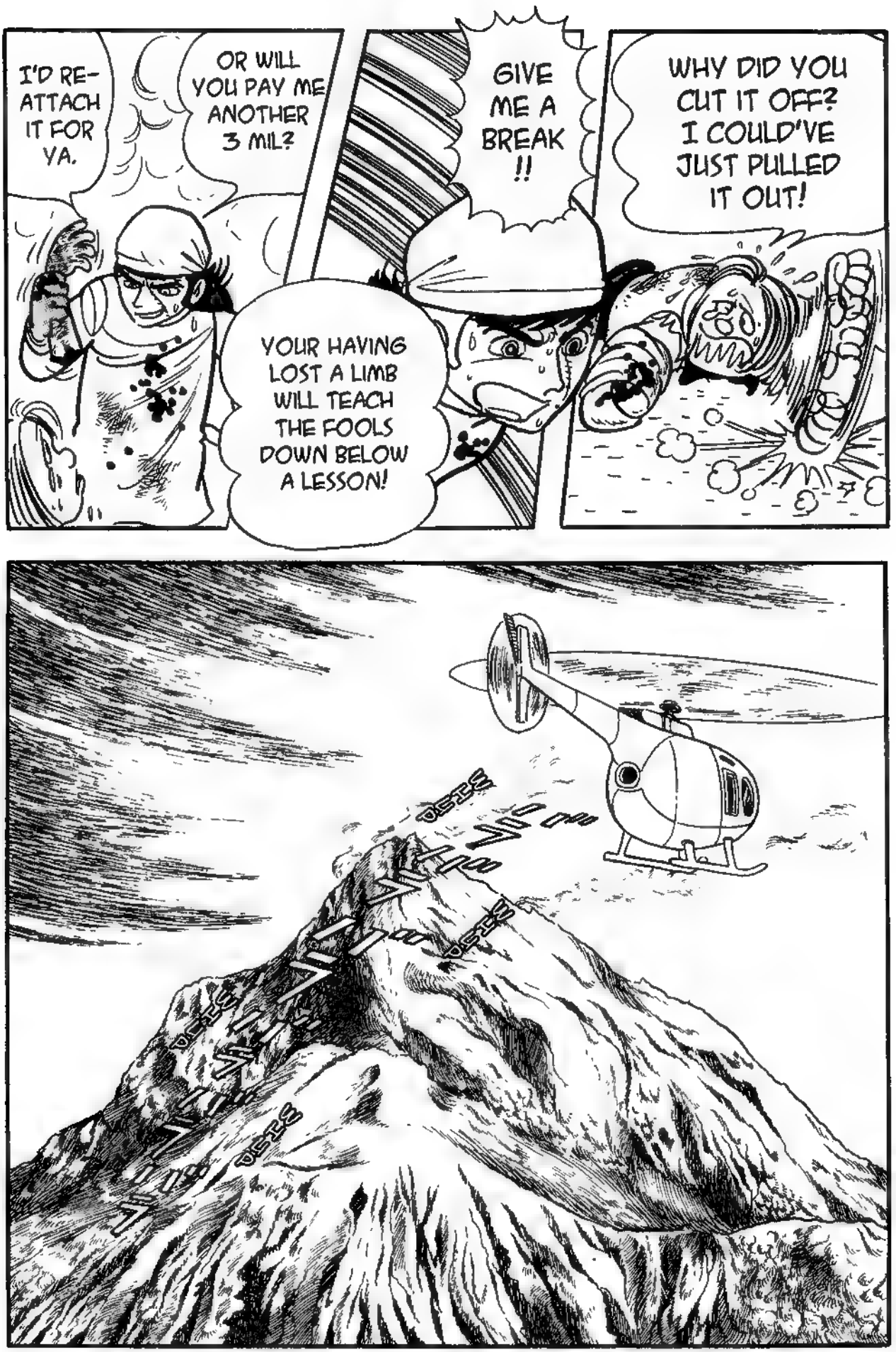

SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A GAS MASK.
UGH, IT REEKS OF SULFUR.
YOU'RE A HANDFUL, PAL. YOU'VE COST A DOCTOR A NASTY FALL AND A HELLUVA LOT IN RESCUE EXPENSES.
HEY, ARE YOU STILL ALIVE ?
UHH...
I-I AM...
HMM... HOW COULD THIS BE? JUST WON'T COME OUT.


YOU OKAY WITH LOSING AN ARM?
I WANT TO LIVE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN TELL ME. WOULD YOU RATHER DIE, OR SUFFER SOME PAIN AND LIVE?
IT'S A DEED OF PAYMENT. THREE MILLION YEN FOR AN AMPUTATION. A BARGAIN, IN FACT!
THEN SIGN HERE.
I AM SO HURRY AND HELP!
THIS'LL TAKE JUST FIVE MINUTES ...
UNGH
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
KLATTER


PRRK
I CAN'T BREATHE!
UKH... NNGKH...
NKHH!!
DAMMIT !!
" PANT " " PANT PANT "


COUGH
COUGH
KRAK
SMACK
SMACK
OKAY, WE'RE DONE. WANNA KISS YOUR ARM GOODBYE ?
HEE
HEE
YEOWW!


AH!
POP
SLIP
I GOT THE STONE !!
HEH
I GOT IT.
YOUR HAND! IT'S COME FREE!
YOU DUMB ASS !!
YOU WERE GRABBING THAT STONE THE WHOLE TIME!
DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU TRAP STUPID MONKEYS? YOU LEAVE RICE IN A GOURD WITH A HOLE. THEY GRAB THE RICE AND WON'T LET GO SO THEIR FISTS GET STUCK.
YOU, YOU'RE LOWER THAN A MONKEY !!
...


I'D RE-ATTACH IT FOR YA.
OR WILL YOU PAY ME ANOTHER 3 MIL?
YOUR HAVING LOST A LIMB WILL TEACH THE FOOLS DOWN BELOW A LESSON!
GIVE ME A BREAK !!
WHY DID YOU CUT IT OFF? I COULD'VE JUST PULLED IT OUT!

VISITOR IN THE SNOW

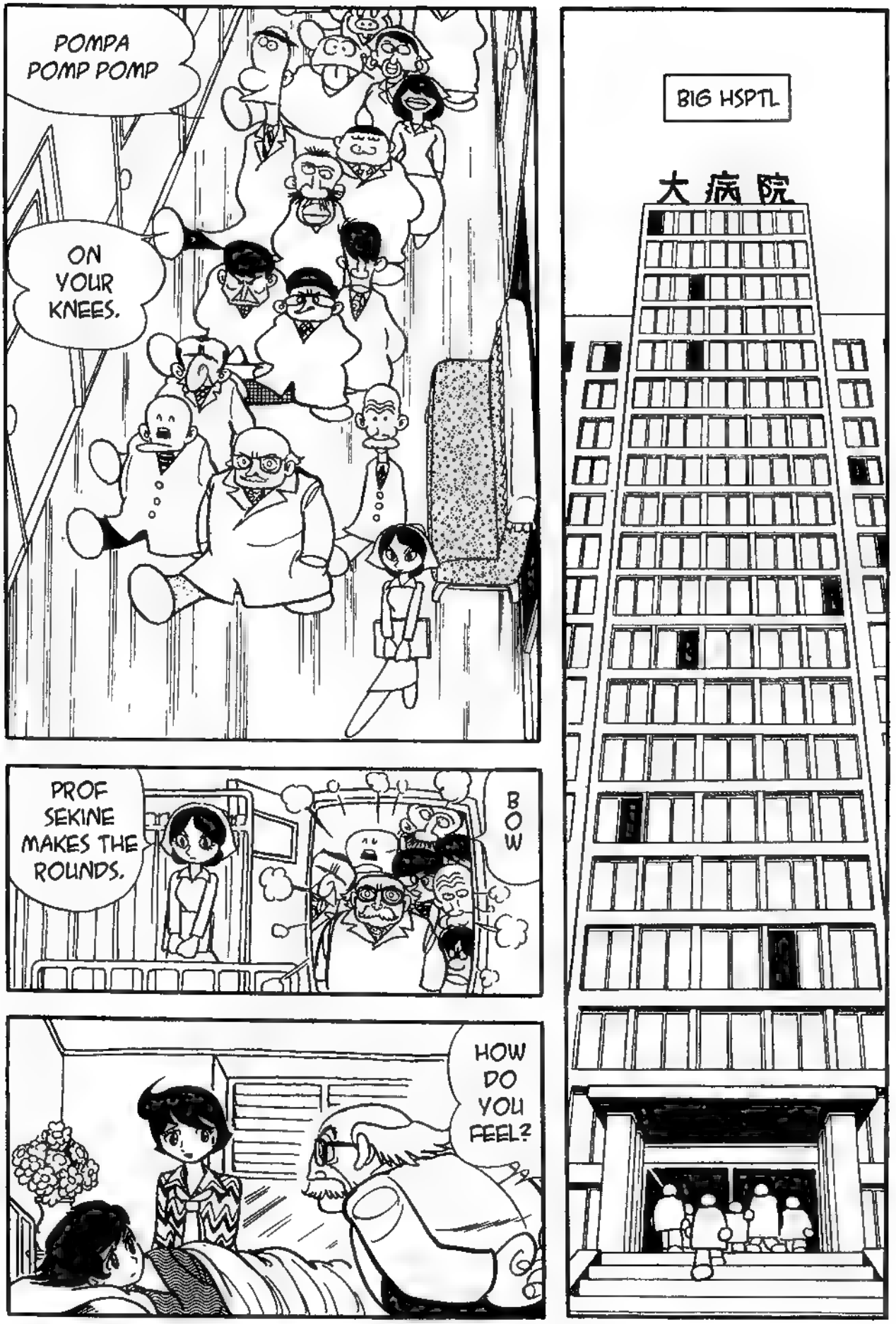
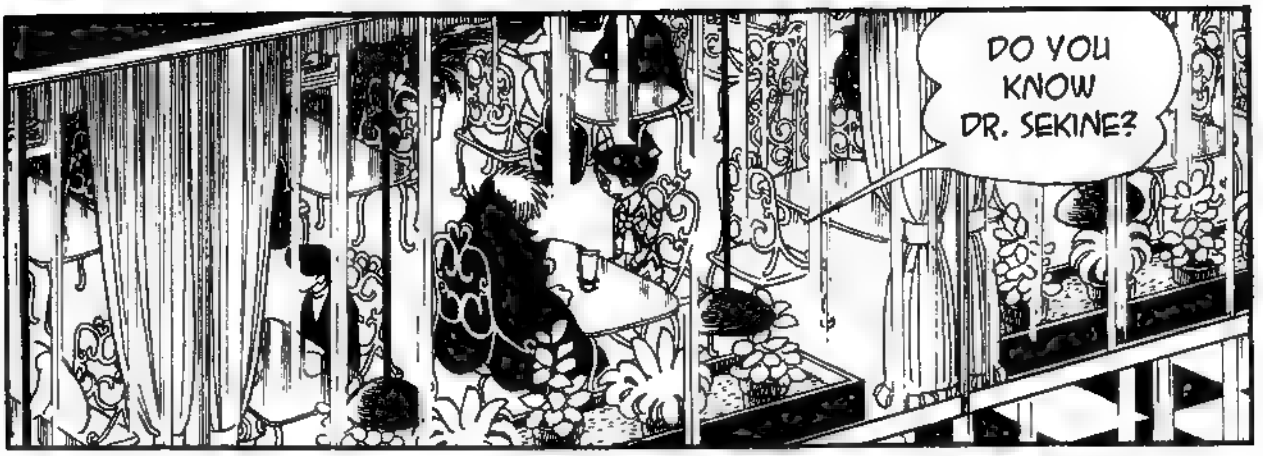

POMPA POMP POMP
ON YOUR KNEES.
BIG HSPTL
大病院
PROF SEKINE MAKES THE ROUNDS.
BOW
HOW DO YOU FEEL?


CHART.
THIS FRI-DAY, THE 13TH.
MR. YAMA-GUCHI, LET'S DO THE OP.
HM.
NO... I WILL TAKE THIS ON.
Y-YOU NEEDN'T. WE'D BE GLAD WITH—
WHO BUT ME?
W-WHO WILL HEAD IT?
SIS! I'LL GET KILLED!
NO ...!!
READY YOUR MIND FOR IT.
MARK IT, THE 13TH.


DO YOU KNOW DR. SEKINE?

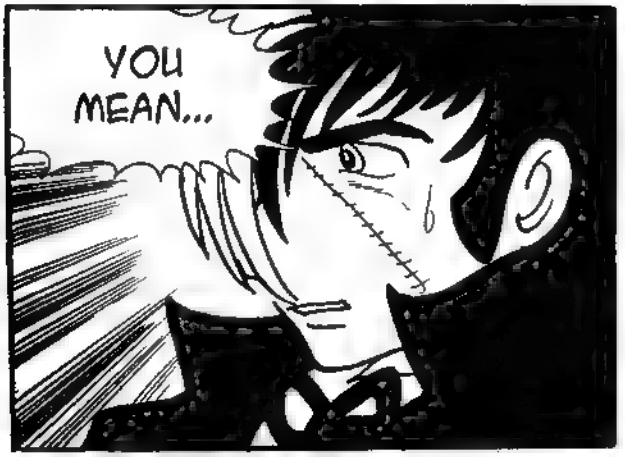

GOING TO DO AN OP ON MY LITTLE BROTHER FOR KIDNEY STONES.


HE'S...


BY NAME, YES. HE'S A STAR.

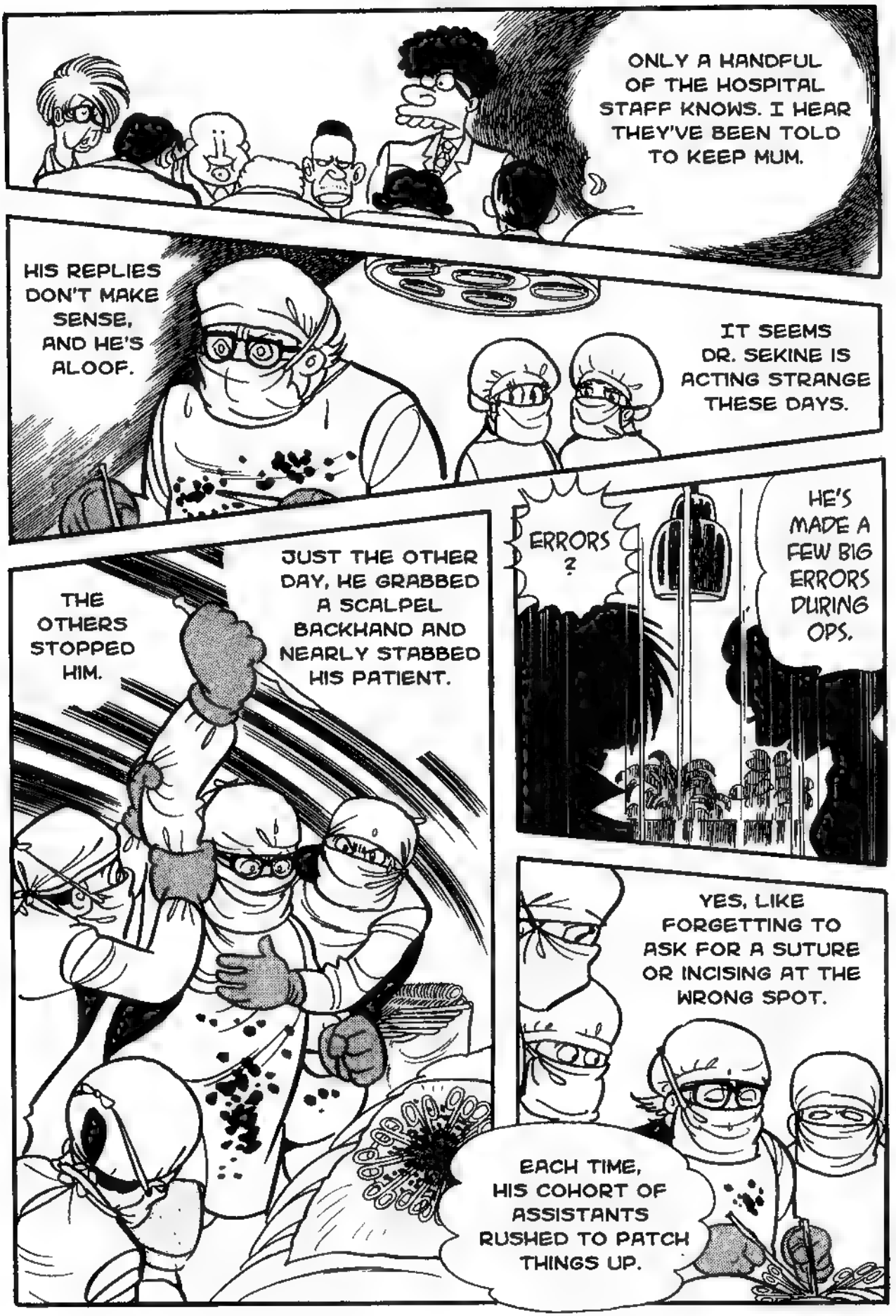

IT SEEMS DOCTOR SEKINE IS ILL.
PLEASE DON'T SHARE THIS WITH ANYBODY.


NO... IT ISN'T !!
GOOD FOR YOU.


YOU MEAN...


...

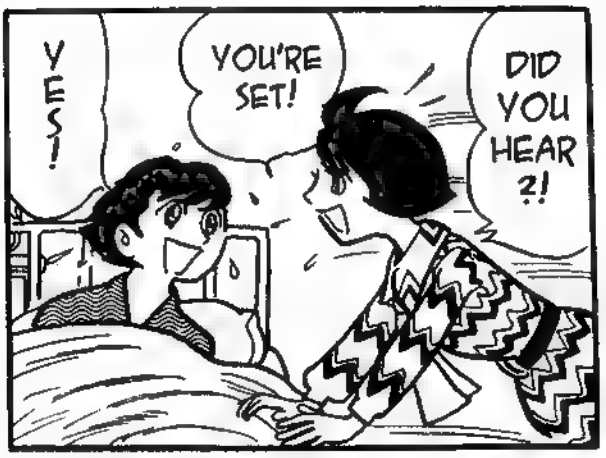

HOW ?
ILL ?

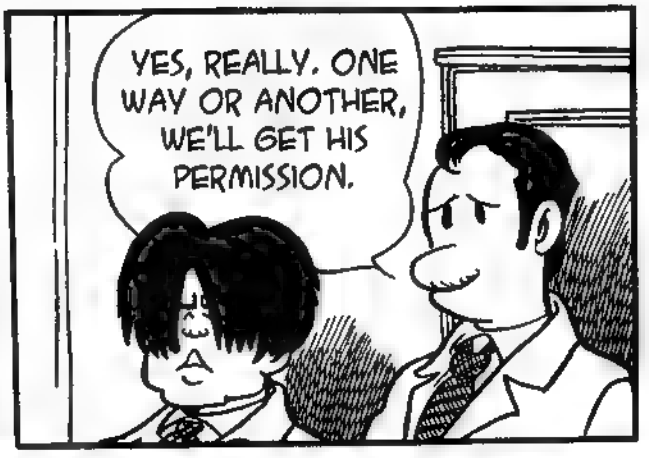

ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF KNOWS. I HEAR THEY'VE BEEN TOLD TO KEEP MUM.
HIS REPLIES DON'T MAKE SENSE, AND HE'S ALOOF.
IT SEEMS DR. SEKINE IS ACTING STRANGE THESE DAYS.
ERRORS ?
HE'S MADE A FEW BIG ERRORS DURING OPS.
THE OTHERS STOPPED HIM.
JUST THE OTHER DAY, HE GRABBED A SCALPEL BACKHAND AND NEARLY STABBED HIS PATIENT.
YES, LIKE FORGETTING TO ASK FOR A SUTURE OR INCISING AT THE WRONG SPOT.
EACH TIME, HIS COHORT OF ASSISTANTS RUSHED TO PATCH THINGS UP.


WHEN DOCTOR SEKINE CAME ON HIS ROUNDS, HIS EYES...
THEY MADE MY BROTHER SHUDDER.
ARE YOU SURE OF THIS?
UNDER WRAPS? BUT IF IT'S TRUE, HE'D BE FORCED TO RETIRE.
HIS CORE STAFF KEEPS IT...
HE HAD THIS WEIRD LOOK.
NO ONE DARE SUGGEST THAT HE RETIRE.
THEY CALL HIM A DIAGNOSTIC GOD.
HE'S TOO RESPECTED FOR THAT.
MY BROTHER'S TERRIBLY SCARED...
NO HOSPITAL WITH SUCH A SURGEON IS WORTH ITS NAME.
EVEN IF HE IS A GOD,


TOO LATE THEN.
DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW?
THE OP IS ON THE 13TH!
TRANSFER HIM IF YOU'RE WORRIED SO BAD.
WANT ME TO JUST BARGE IN OR WHAT?
CAN'T VERY WELL.
DOCTOR, PLEASE HELP!
YOU DO IT!
OH... WHAT AM I TO DO?
I'M NOT CHEAP.
OH, AND
HA HA HA HA ...
SO BIG HSPTL IS A FARCE!

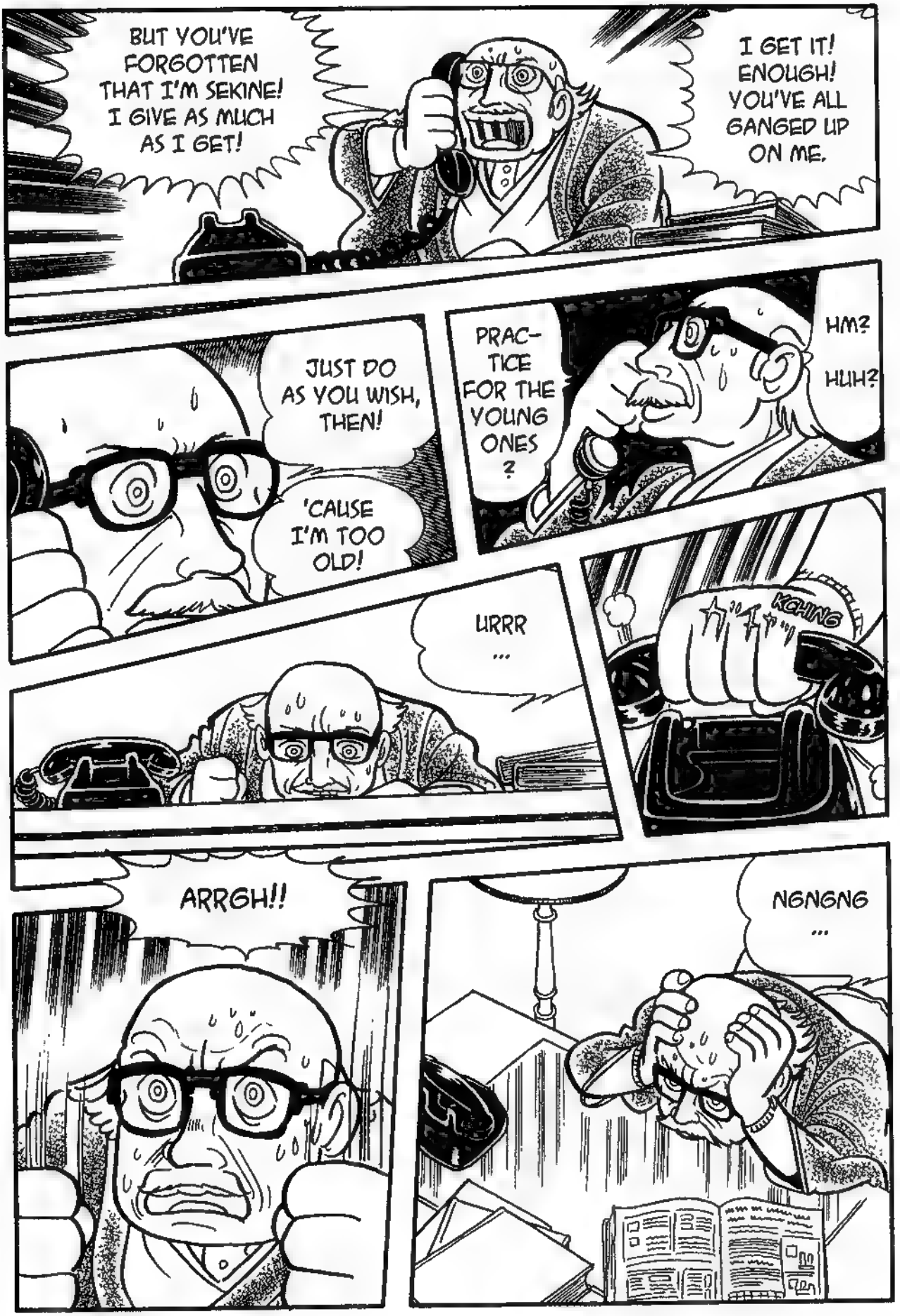

LES
REALLY ?!
RELAX, WE'LL KEEP HIM OUT OF IT.
WE'RE QUITE AWARE PROF SEKINE ISN'T UP TO IT.

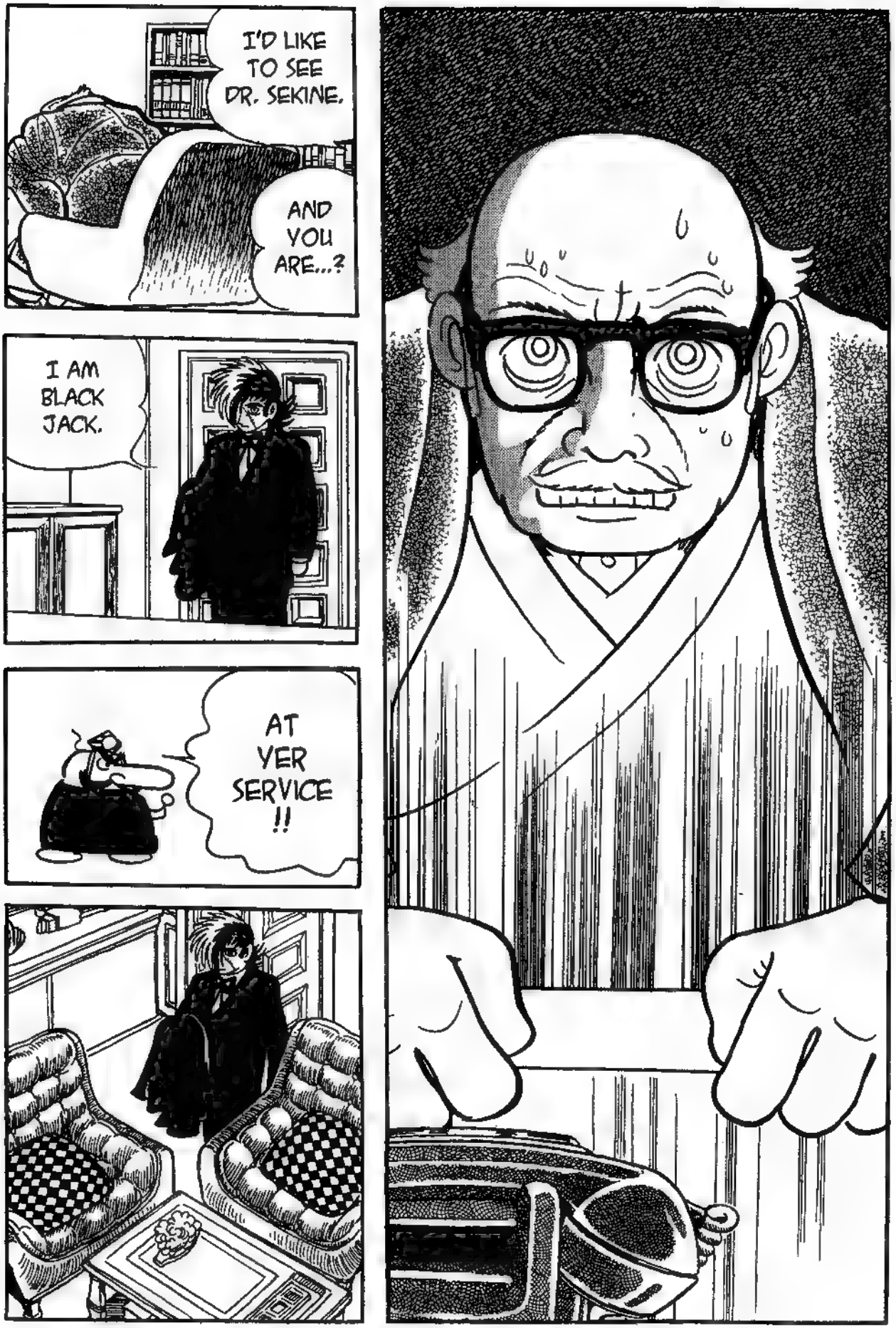

YES!
YOU'RE SET!
DID YOU HEAR ?!

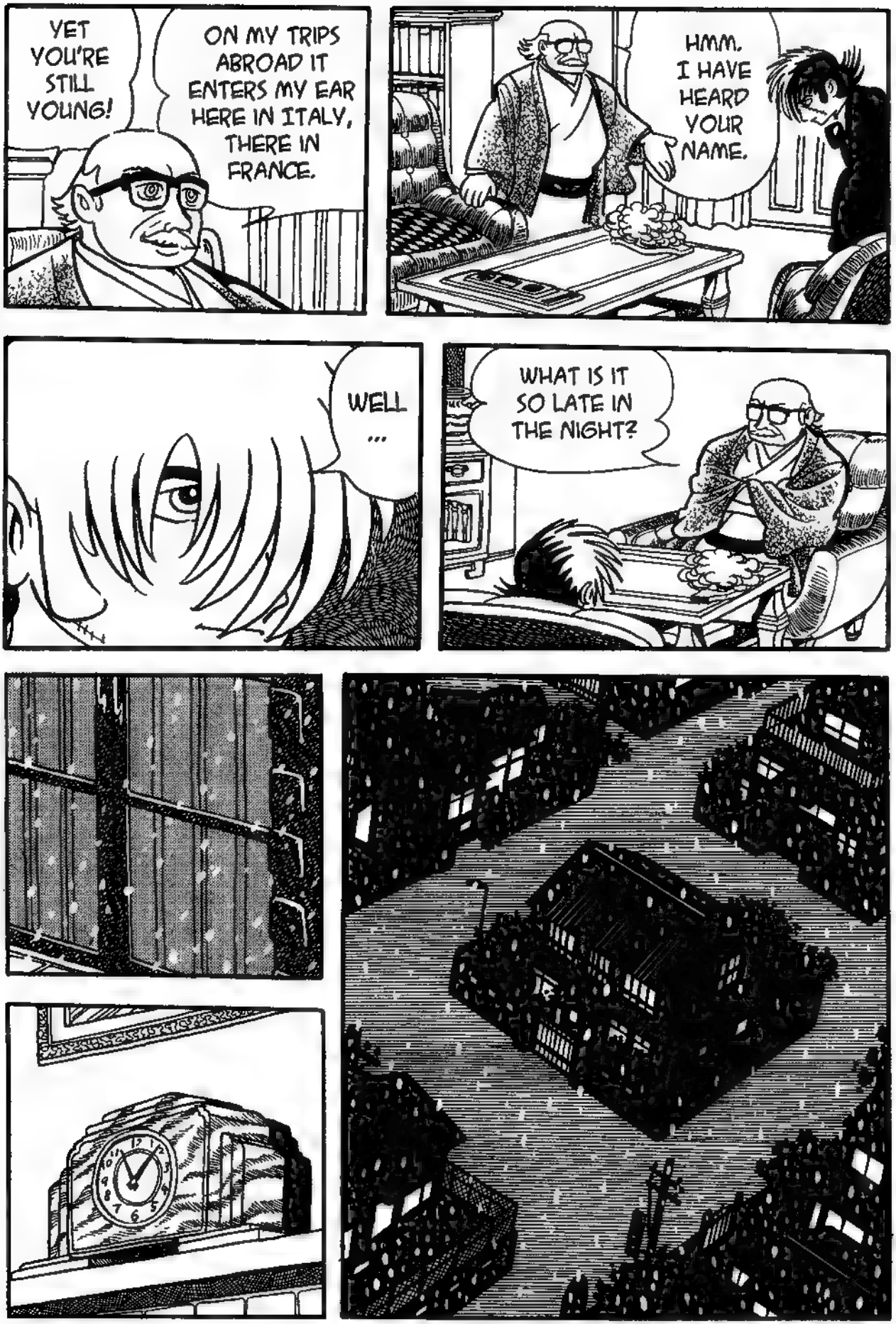

YES, REALLY. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'LL GET HIS PERMISSION.


WHY NOT ME?
WHAT TANIGAWA TAKE THE SCALPEL. YOU MEAN THE 13TH?
SAYS WHO ?!

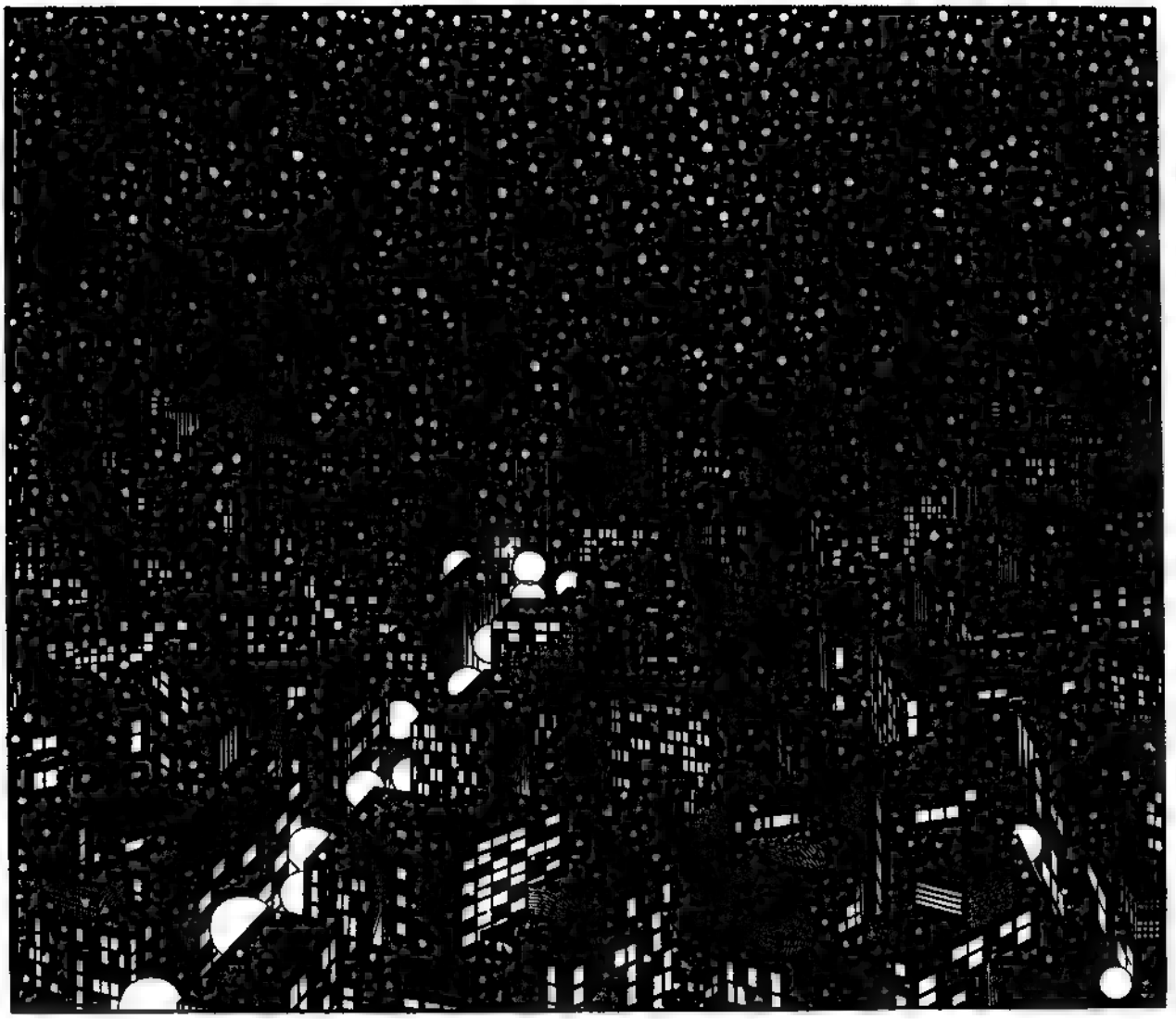



BUT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I'M SEKINE! I GIVE AS MUCH AS I GET!
I GET IT! ENOUGH! YOU'VE ALL GANGED UP ON ME.
JUST DO AS YOU WISH, THEN!
'CAUSE I'M TOO OLD!
PRAC-TICE FOR THE YOUNG ONES ?
HM?
HUH?
KCHING
URRR ...
ARRGH!!
NGNGNG ...


I'D LIKE TO SEE DR. SEKINE.
AND YOU ARE...?
I AM BLACK JACK.
AT YER SERVICE !!

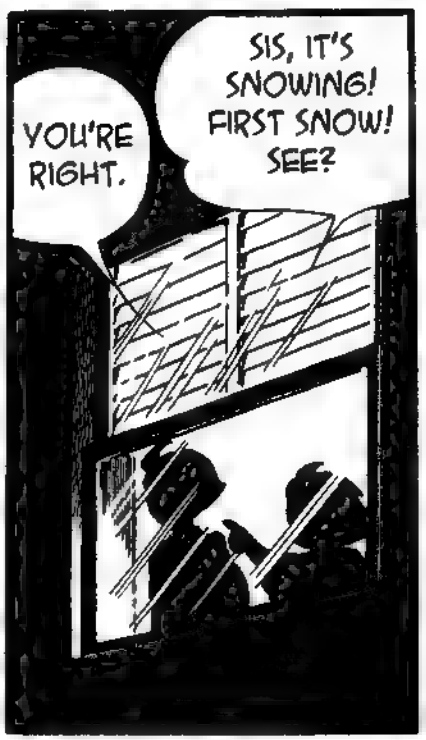

YET YOU'RE STILL YOUNG!
ON MY TRIPS ABROAD IT ENTERS MY EAR HERE IN ITALY, THERE IN FRANCE.
HMM. I HAVE HEARD YOUR NAME.
WELL ...
WHAT IS IT SO LATE IN THE NIGHT?

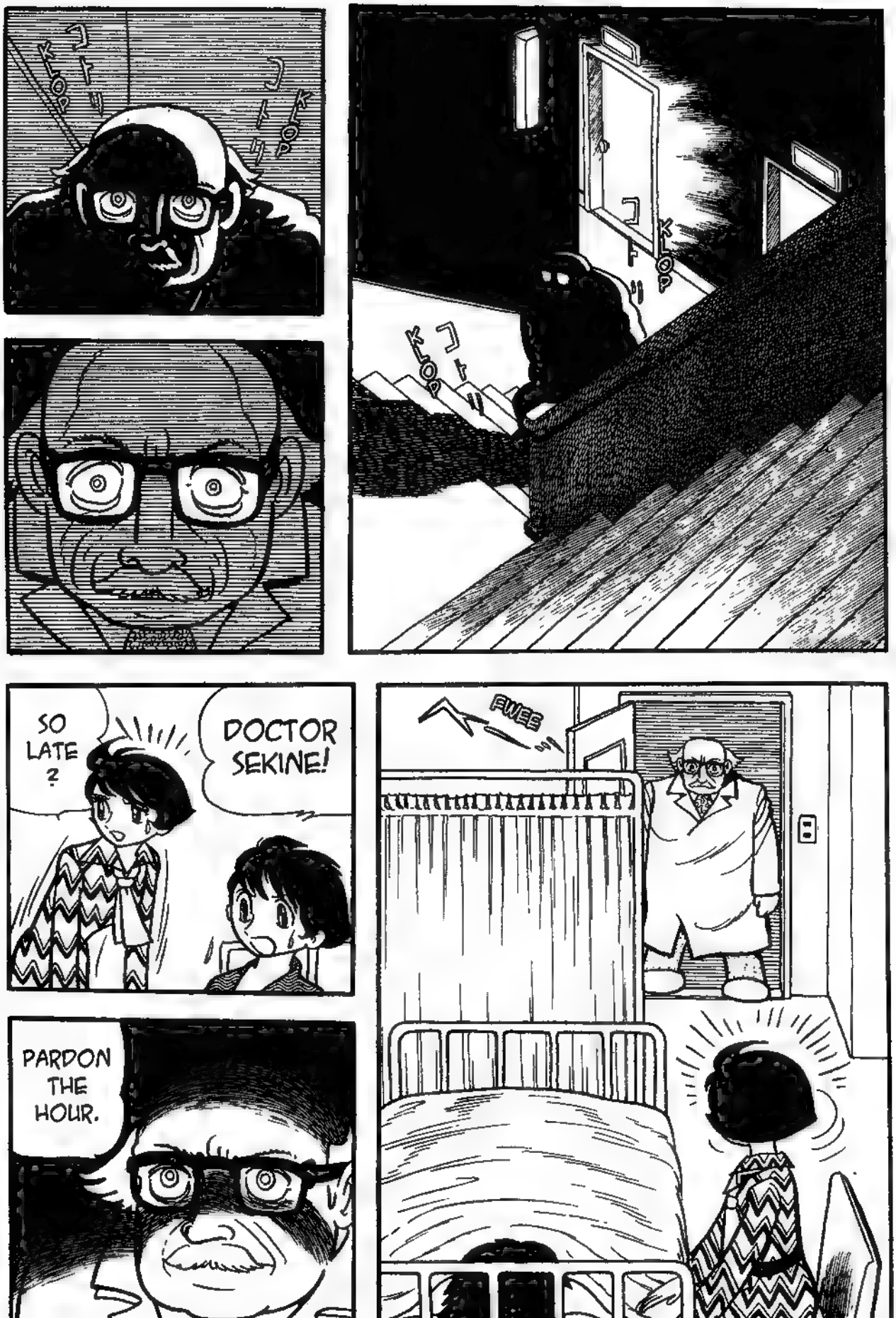

MY LATE WIFE.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO HER THAT I GOT THIS FAR. EVER SINCE I WAS YOUR OWN AGE, WE SHARED HARDSHIPS.
3 YEARS AGO. I LOVED HER SO.
BRAIN HEMOR-RHAGE,
WHEN SHE COLLAPSED, I WASN'T THERE FOR HER.
?
BUT I WASN'T THERE AT THE END ...
I CAN'T... REGRET IT ENOUGH ...
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HAVE BEEN THERE TO TREAT HER!



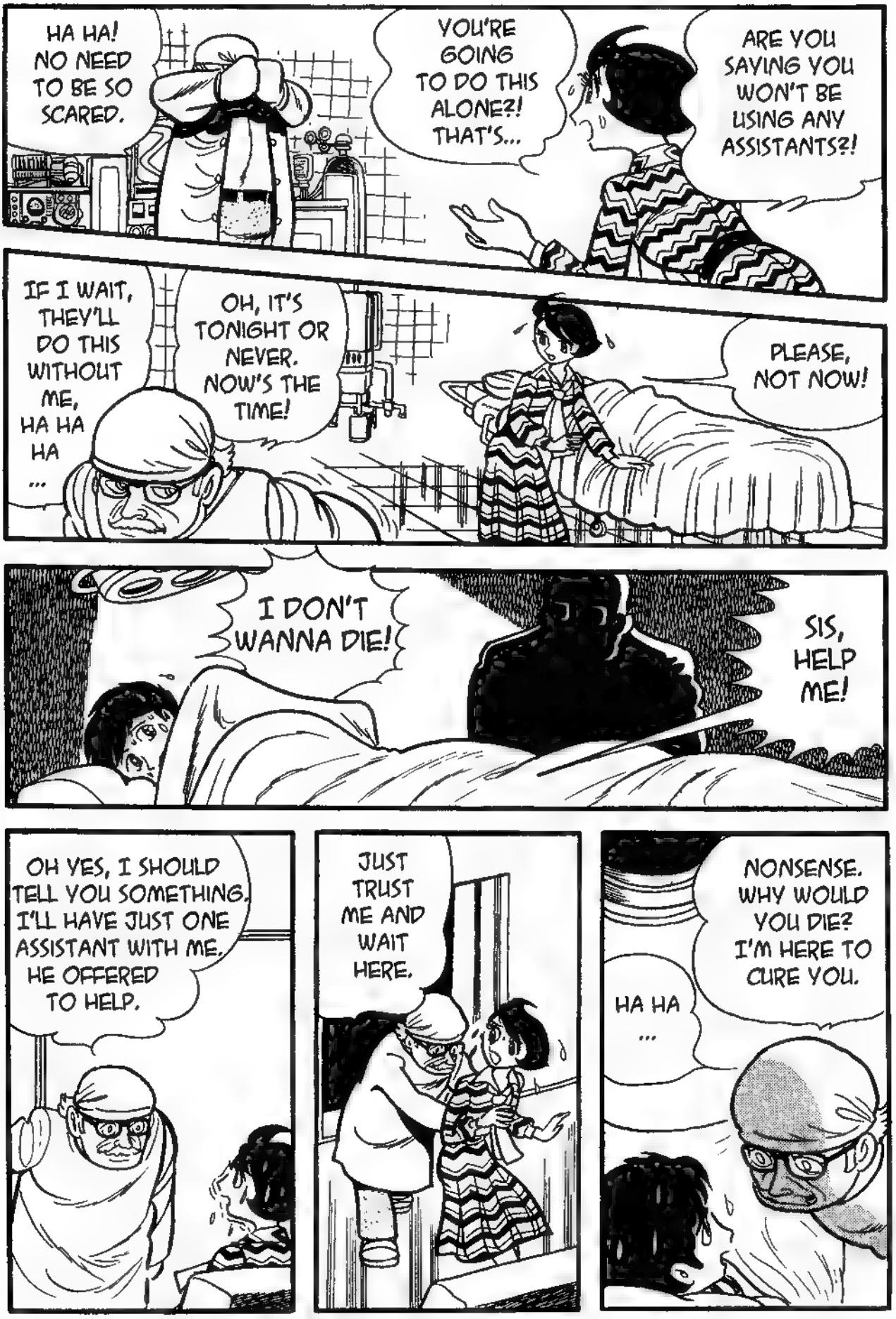

TONIGHT I'LL SLEEP WELL, I BET.
THEY SAY DR. TANI-GAWA'S PRETTY GOOD.
SO, THE OP IS TOMORROW. YOUR PAIN WILL BE GONE!


HEY. HEAR THOSE FOOTSTEPS?


YOU'RE RIGHT.
SIS, IT'S SNOWING! FIRST SNOW! SEE?

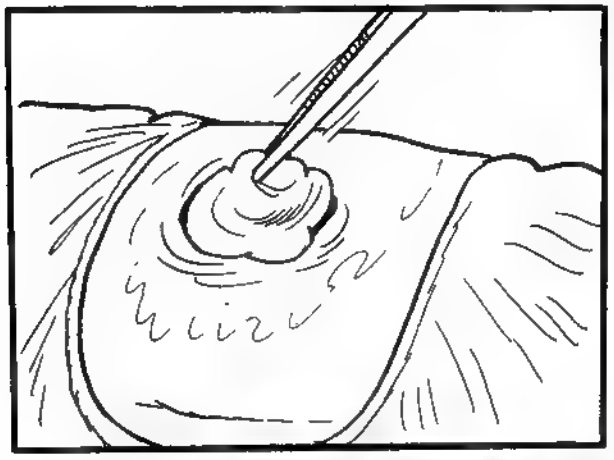

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SO LATE ?
DOCTOR SEKINE!
PARDON THE HOUR.
PWEE


B-BUT DOCTOR, IT'S MIDNIGHT.
WHAT?
WE'RE DOING THE OP.
AH. I WON'T REQUIRE ANY STAFF FOR THIS.
B-BUT WHO'S AWAKE AT THIS HOUR?
AND? I WANT TO DO IT NOW.
NOOO!!

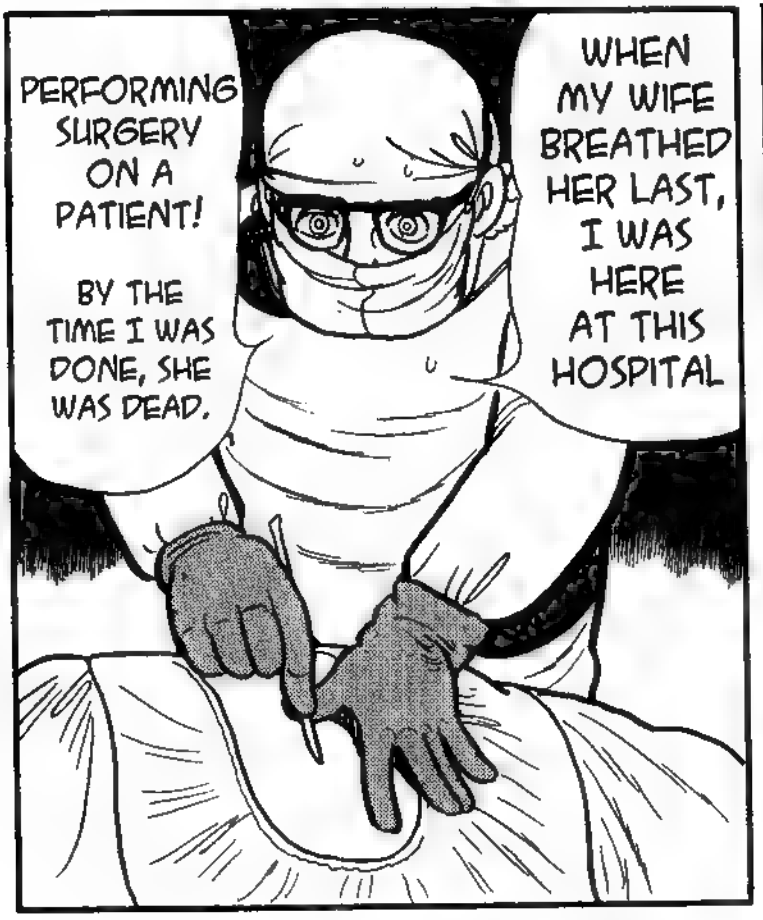

HA HA! NO NEED TO BE SO SCARED.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS ALONE?! THAT'S...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T BE USING ANY ASSISTANTS?!
IF I WAIT, THEY'LL DO THIS WITHOUT ME, HA HA HA ...
OH, IT'S TONIGHT OR NEVER. NOW'S THE TIME!
PLEASE, NOT NOW!
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
SIS, HELP ME!
OH YES, I SHOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING. I'LL HAVE JUST ONE ASSISTANT WITH ME. HE OFFERED TO HELP.
JUST TRUST ME AND WAIT HERE.
NONSENSE. WHY WOULD YOU DIE? I'M HERE TO CURE YOU.
HA HA ...


THIS MAN IS A GREAT SURGEON. HE'LL WATCH SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO ERRORS.
JUST ASSISTING. THERE'LL BE NO FEE.
I'M NOT DOING THE OP.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, YOU'LL HELP US AFTER ALL?
I LOVE TO ASSIST GREAT DOCTORS.
DOCTOR SEKINE ISN'T "ILL" LIKE YOU THINK!
WHY'RE YOU HELPING HIM?


LET US BEGIN.




I AM.
ARE YOU READY, DOCTOR?


PERFORMING SURGERY ON A PATIENT!
BY THE TIME I WAS DONE, SHE WAS DEAD.
WHEN MY WIFE BREATHED HER LAST, I WAS HERE AT THIS HOSPITAL

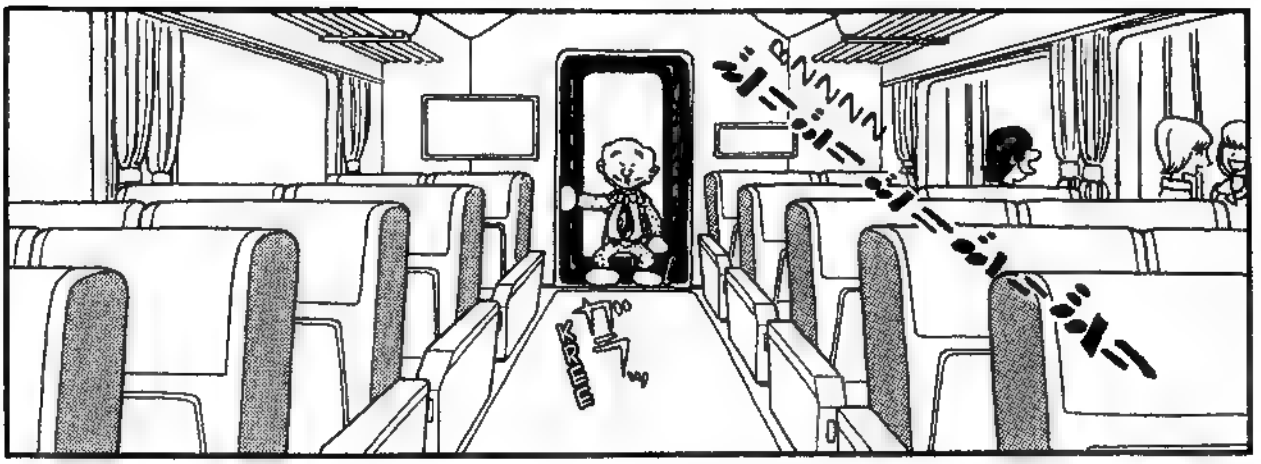

FOR-CEPS


MY WIFE DIED.
I TOLD YOU I WASN'T THERE WHEN ...


TO THINK THAT I...
SACRI-FICED HER TO MY WORK EVEN MADE ME CLENCH MY FIST.
EVER SINCE, I GET ...
THIS URGE WHEN I'M IN AN OP.
URR ...
DOCTOR, DON'T THINK.
I KNOW.
DOC-TOR!
HERE, AS BIG AS A FINGER-TIP.
RELAX
I KNOW.
ELLIP-SOIDAL NEEDLE !
...
ELASTIC FOR-CEPS!
STILL MORE. IT'S A BIG ONE.


AH, THE SNOW IS GONE WITHOUT A TRACE.
THAT WAS A GREAT OP.
NO... THANKS TO YOU, MY MIND HAS CLEARED.
WELL... IT'S LIKE A YAKUZA SWORDFIGHT.
HAVE YOU EVER FELT ANGST DURING AN OP?
I SLASH WITHOUT A THOUGHT. NO TIME FOR ANGST.
HUH?
HA HA. I'D LIKE TO BE MORE LIKE YOU.

GRASPING DUO



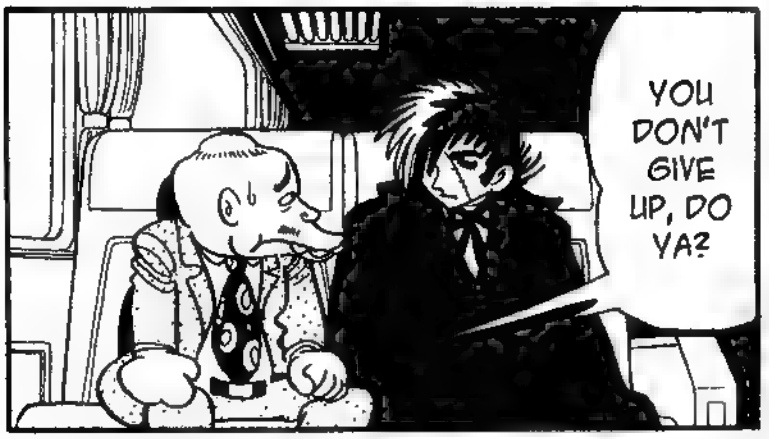


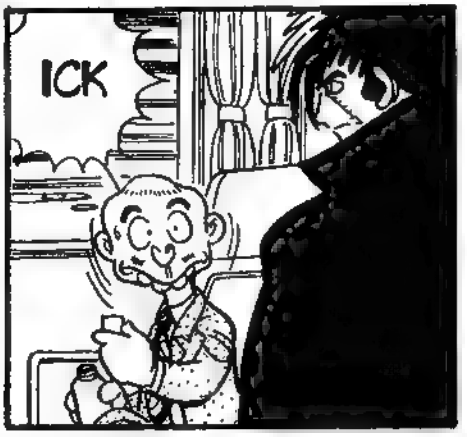








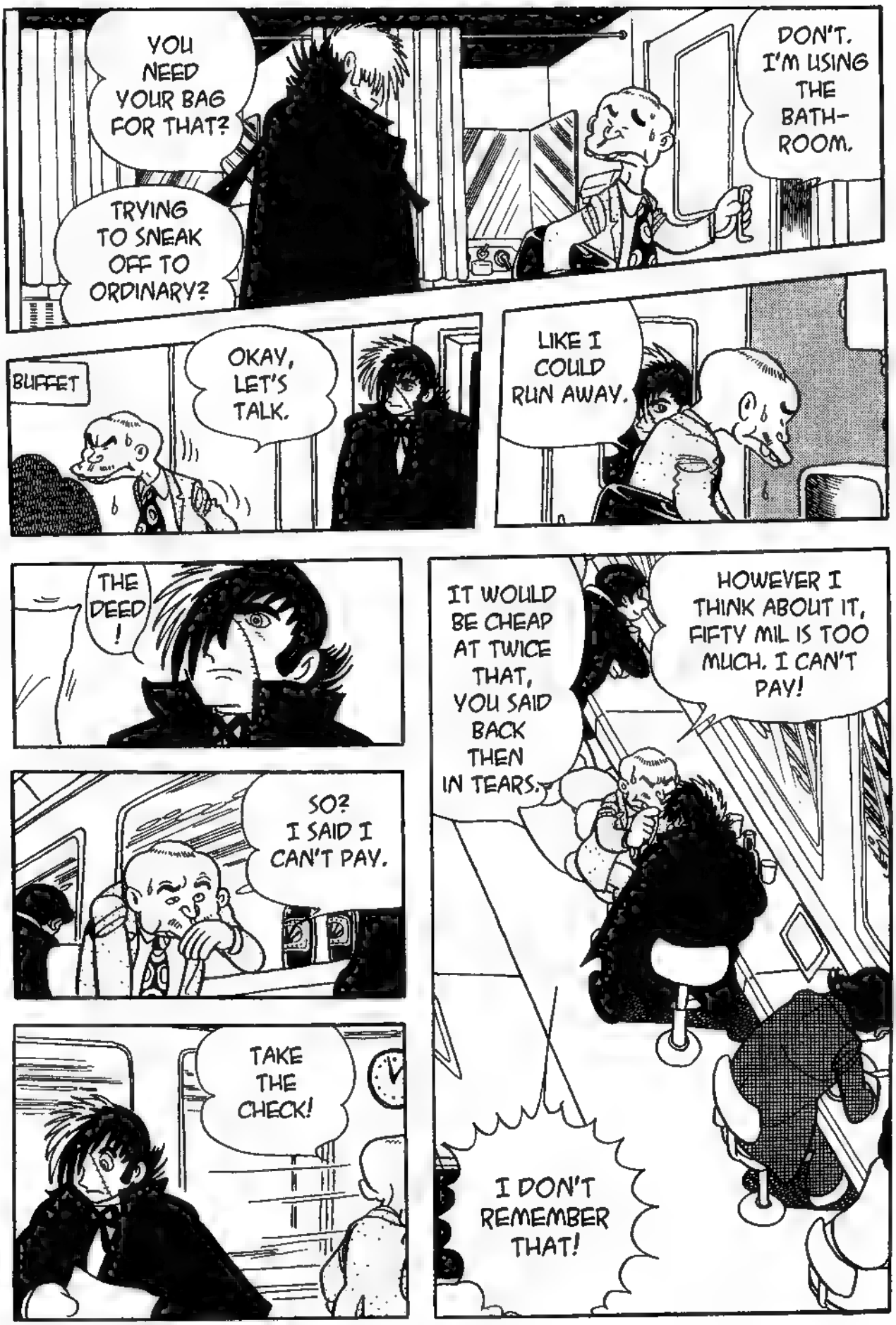




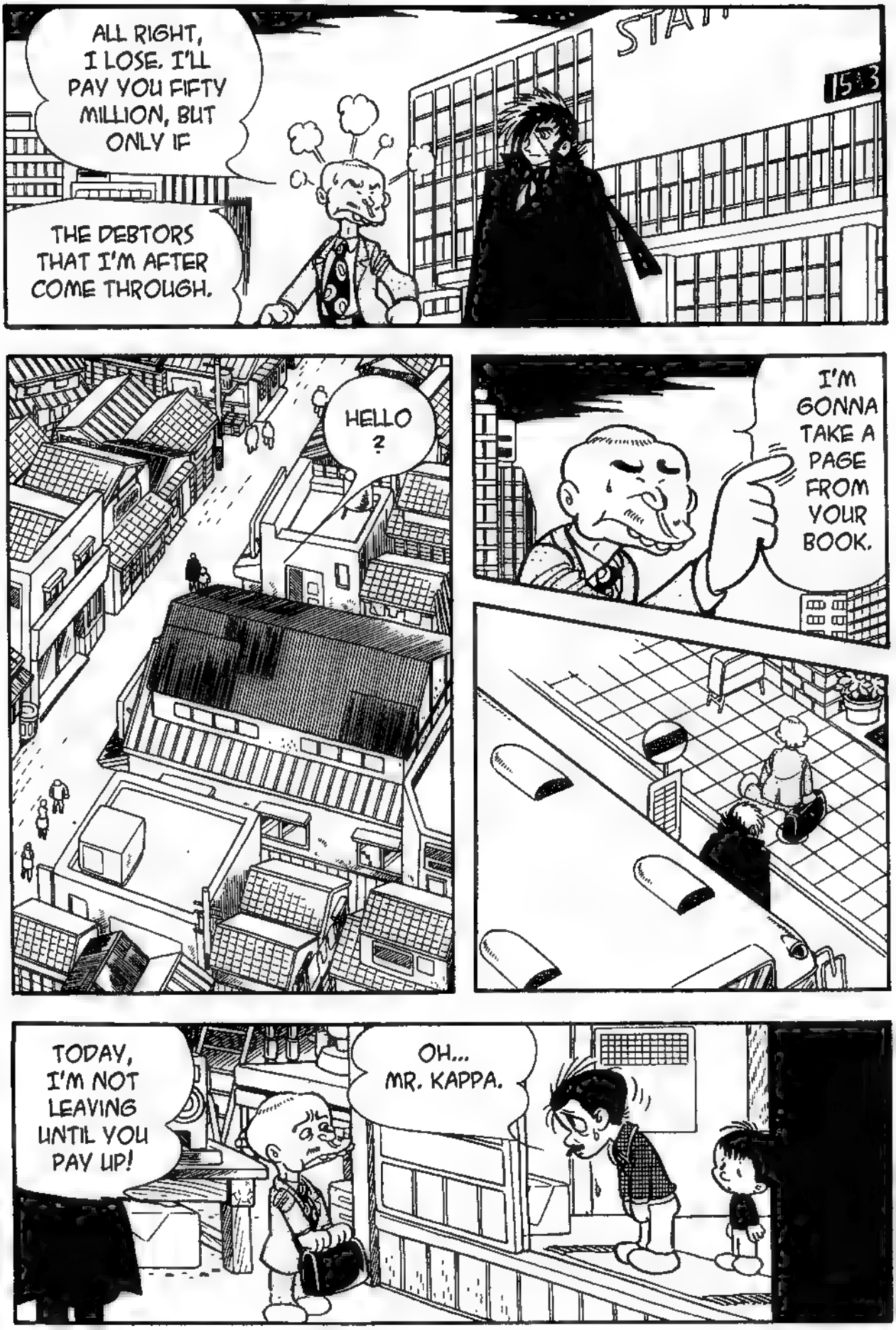
NOTE: GREEN CAR = FIRST CLASS (NO ECOLOGICAL CONNOTATION)


YEAH. I COULD'VE HIDDEN AMONG THE CROWD IN ORDINARY.
WANNA HIDE, DON'T RIDE GREEN.
OKAY, OKAY.
THREE YEARS AGO ...
I WON'T NOT PAY ...
I'M GRATEFUL, I REALLY AM, THAT YOU CURED ME OF THAT LUMP, DOCTOR.
BUT FIFTY MILLION YEN, THAT'S STIFF.
AREN'T YOU A MONEY-LENDER YOURSELF, MISTER KAPPA?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
BACK THEN YOU WERE MY SAVIOR. NOW, FRANKLY, I SEE YOU AS A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTE: THOUGH SPELLED HERE WITH PLAUSIBLE CHARACTERS AS A SURNAME, "KAPPA" IS A RIVER GOBLIN WHOSE TRADEMARK BOWL-LIKE HEADGEAR RESEMBLES THE MAN'S FUNNY-SHAPED HEAD.


YOU NEED YOUR BAG FOR THAT?
TRYING TO SNEAK OFF TO ORDINARY?
DON'T. I'M USING THE BATH-ROOM.
BUFFET
OKAY, LET'S TALK.
LIKE I COULD RUN AWAY.
THE DEED!
SO? I SAID I CAN'T PAY.
TAKE THE CHECK!
IT WOULD BE CHEAP AT TWICE THAT, YOU SAID BACK THEN IN TEARS.
HOWEVER I THINK ABOUT IT, FIFTY MIL IS TOO MUCH. I CAN'T PAY!
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT!


ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, MISTER KAPPA.
I DIDN'T SAVE YOUR LIFE FOR FUN!
GREEN CAR
W-WHAT? PISSED OFF?
KNOCK ON WOOD!
RECUR? THAT LUMP, AGAIN?
LISTEN... SWELLING OF THE BRAIN ENDOTHELIUM TENDS TO RECUR.
YOU WILL DIE WRITHING ...
YOU WANT THAT?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CURE YOU.
I WON'T TREAT YOU THE NEXT TIME.
IF YOU PISS ME OFF,
GREEN CAR


ALL RIGHT, I LOSE. I'LL PAY YOU FIFTY MILLION, BUT ONLY IF
THE DEBTORS THAT I'M AFTER COME THROUGH.
15:3
HELLO ?
I'M GONNA TAKE A PAGE FROM YOUR BOOK.
TODAY, I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL YOU PAY UP!
OH... MR. KAPPA.


THE FACTORY ISN'T GETTING WORK.
WITH THE RECESSION,
BUT ...
TELL ME HOW YOU WILL PAY.
DID I ASK?
YOU KNOW WHY I BROUGHT HIM? I NEED TO PAY HIM WITH THE MONEY YOU'LL COUGH UP!
YOU BETTER DELIVER.
I'M HARD PRESSED, TOO.
PLEASE ...
DO I TAKE YOUR FACTORY, HOUSE, AND LAND?
EIGHTY MILLION INCLUDING INTEREST!
WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
IF YOU DID THAT, WE'D DIE IN A GUTTER.


YOU'LL GET VISITS FROM SCARY FOLK WHO'LL CLEAN YOU OUT!
IF I SELL THESE TO A GANG,
YOUR I.O.U.'S!
SEE THIS?

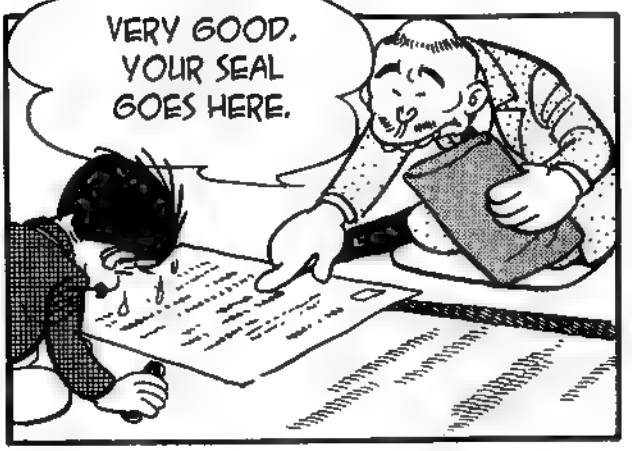

IF YOU CAN'T PAY, HAND ME THE REGISTRIES FOR THE FACTORY AND THIS PLOT!!


NO, NOW!


I-IN THREE MONTHS ...

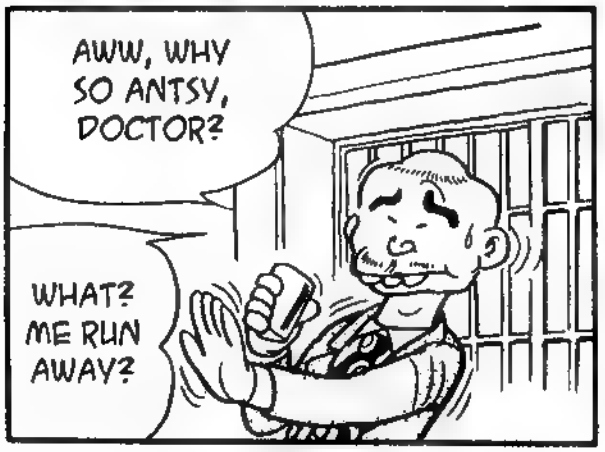

WE'RE DONE. LEGGO.


HONEY... WHAT WILL WE DO WITHOUT THEM?
CAN'T HELP IT.


VERY GOOD. YOUR SEAL GOES HERE.

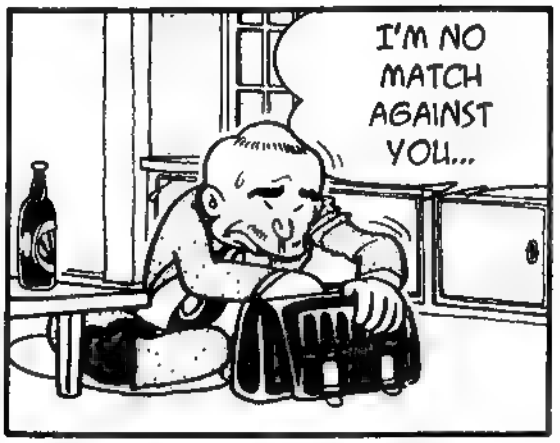

WAAH
WAAH
" WEEP "
THERE IS NO GOD IN THIS WORLD!


JUST GIVE ME MY DUE.

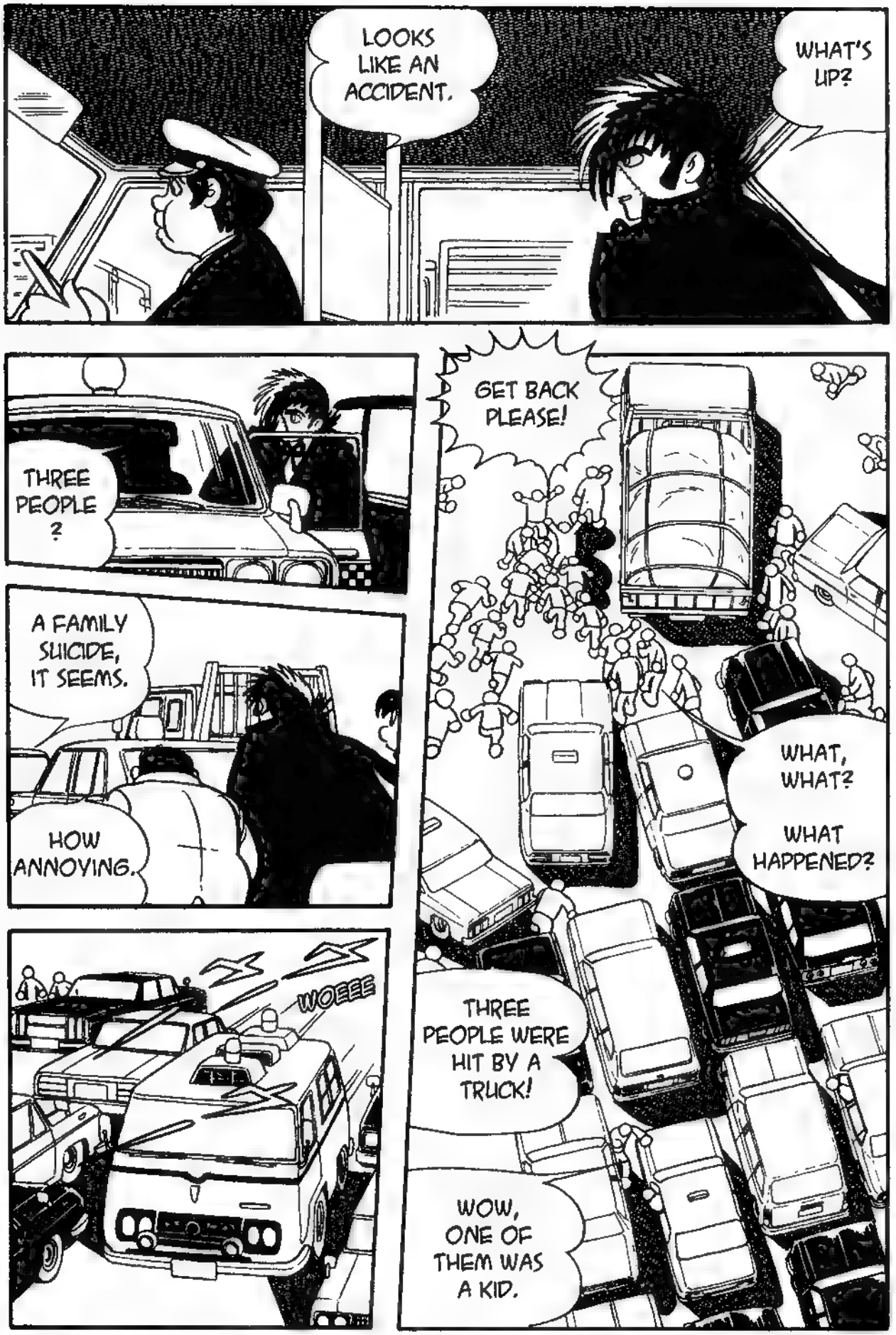

AWW, WHY SO ANTSY, DOCTOR?
WHAT? ME RUN AWAY?


HEHEHEH. DOCTOR, YOUR STICK-TO-IT-TILL-THEY-CAVE-IN TACTIC RULES!
SO, CHEERS.
THEY'D BEEN A HARD NUT TO CRACK.


WORTH FIFTY MIL!
HERE, THE FACTORY DEED.


I'M NO MATCH AGAINST YOU...


WHAT IS IT?
I'M GONNA KEEP DOING IT YOUR WAY FROM NOW ON...
SCRAM AS SOON AS I'M DONE.
NAH. MY STYLE IS TO
THERE'S NO HURRY... SIT, HAVE A GLASS.
I'M OFF.
TSK! WHAT AN ASSHOLE.
HANGING AROUND CAN BE A BAD IDEA.
I TOOK MY SWEET TIME ONCE IN INDIA AND I GOT MUGGED FEE AND ALL.
SO LONG.


LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
WHAT'S UP?
THREE PEOPLE ?
A FAMILY SUICIDE, IT SEEMS.
HOW ANNOYING.
WOEEE
GET BACK PLEASE!
WHAT, WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
THREE PEOPLE WERE HIT BY A TRUCK!
WOW, ONE OF THEM WAS A KID.


THEY WON'T LAST.
YOU CAN'T COME IN!
I MIGHT KNOW THEM.
NOT REALLY. MET HIM A FEW HOURS AGO ...
YOU KNOW HIM ?
IT'S HIM !
HE HAD A WILL IN HIS POCKET.
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
WE'LL MAKE THEM. LET'S OPERATE BEFORE WE GET THERE.
YOU MEAN IN HERE?
ANY HOPE ?
THEY WON'T LAST THE TRIP ...
IT WAS SUICIDE. HAVING LOST THEIR HOME AND FACTORY, THEY LOST THEIR WILL TO LIVE.

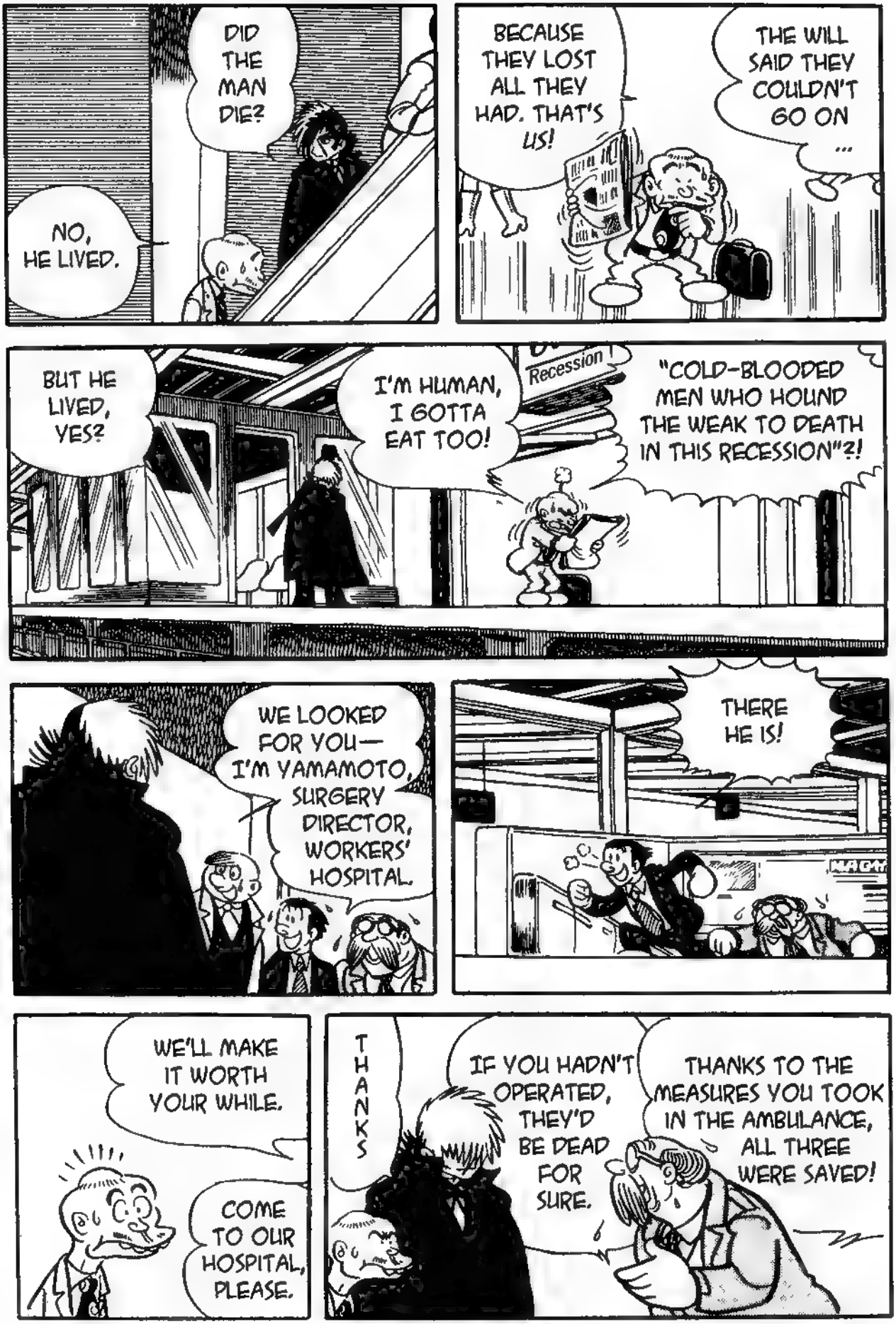

BLACK JACK.
UH, AND YOU ARE?
THEY'LL DIE IF WE DON'T.
THAT'S CRAZY!
PULL OVER AND PARK. WE'RE GOING TO OPERATE.
WHA-?
WE'LL PATCH THE MAJOR ARTERIES AT LEAST!
IS HE THE ...
BLACK ...!
THEY NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED. WE CAN'T SPARE A MINUTE.
500ML/1ST TRANSFUSION, NICE AND SLOW. WATCH BLOOD PRESSURE!
DANG, YOU'RE CUTTING OPEN ALL THREE?
IT'S THAT PRECIOUS MINUTE THEIR LIVES HINGE ON HERE!
YES, A MINUTE!


PHOTO OF HIS ABDOMEN ...
ESS
ELLL
DO IT.
I'M ON IT.
AND HER?
VITAMINS C, K FOR THE KID!
MALE'S ASCENDING COLON AND ILEUM RUPTURED. CRUSH DAMAGE, LIVER, RIGHT LOBE.
THE HOSPITAL WILL RUN FULL TESTS AND PERFORM OPS...
HERE HERE HERE !
FEMALE'S X-RAY !
BUT NOT IF THESE PATIENTS DIE BEFORE THEY GET THERE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE THEM FULL TREAT-MENT?
DON'T TALK STUPID. THIS IS FIRST AID!

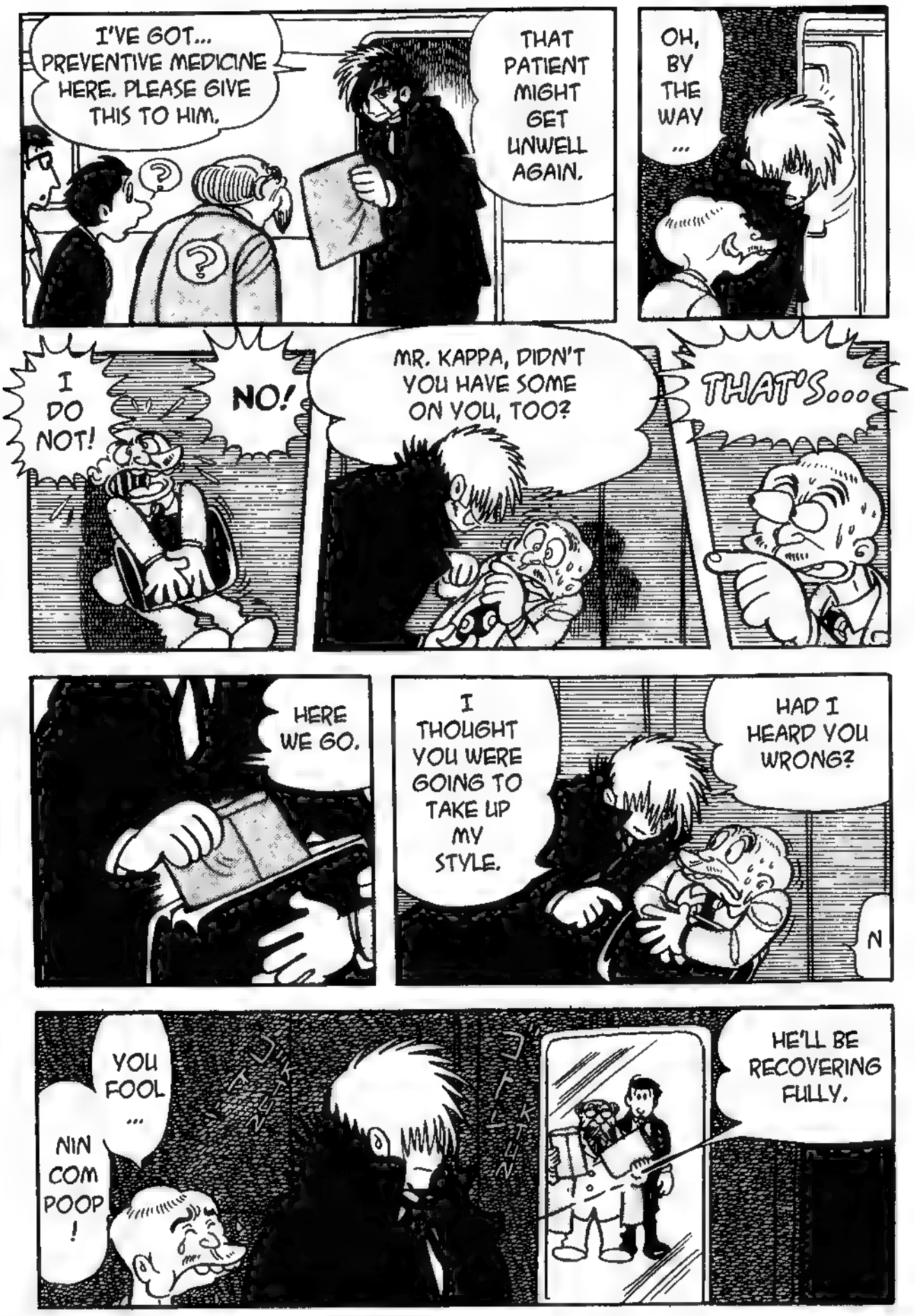

CHILD— RIGHT ARM, RIGHT LEG AND RIB BROKEN. SLIGHT LUNG EDEMA.
TORSO OK! COMA AND JACKSONIAN SPASMS POINT TO CEREBRAL TRAUMA.
WAIT, YOU'RE DONE?
THE OTHER TWO NEED NEW X-RAYS AT THE HOSPITAL.
THE HUSBAND IS WORST, BUT THE BLEEDING'S STOPPED.
IN FIVE MINUTES?
HE DID AN OP ?
ALREADY?
NOW THEY WON'T DIE ON YOU.
I AM !
LET ME GET OFF.
GET OFF? WHY ?
NOT COMING WITH US?
UH ...
IT WILL DO.
NOW
I FIXED THE INTESTINES, MESENTERY, AND ARTERIES. THE BROKEN RIB TOO.


I HAVE NO LICENSE!
I'D GET MAULED AT YOUR HOSPITAL.
YES SIR.
OPEN YET?
ONE HOT SAKE !
MAKE IT HOT...
SNORE


IT'S YOU! DOCTOR BLACK JACK!
HIKARI 3 FOR TOKYO COMING IN ON PLATFORM FIVE ...
HAVEN'T YOU READ THE PAPER? THEY COMMITTED SUICIDE!
"AH" ?!
AH, MISTER KAPPA.
HUH.
HIT BY A TRUCK!
THA-THAT FAMILY WE VISITED THAT HAD A FACTORY!

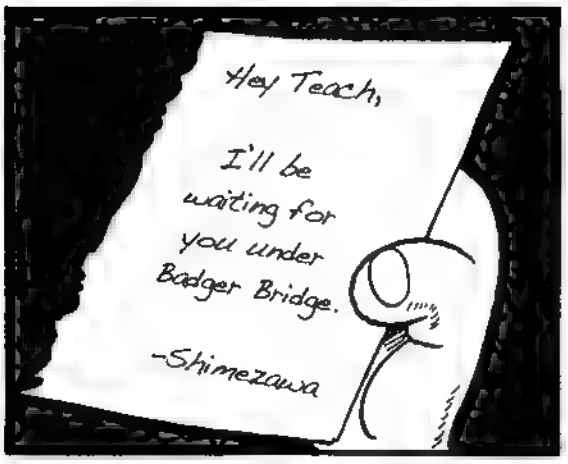

DID THE MAN DIE?
NO, HE LIVED.
BECAUSE THEY LOST ALL THEY HAD. THAT'S US!
THE WILL SAID THEY COULDN'T GO ON ...
BUT HE LIVED, YES?
I'M HUMAN, I GOTTA EAT TOO!
Recession
"COLD-BLOODED MEN WHO HOUND THE WEAK TO DEATH IN THIS RECESSION"?!
WE LOOKED FOR YOU— I'M YAMAMOTO, SURGERY DIRECTOR, WORKERS' HOSPITAL.
THERE HE IS!
WE'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.
COME TO OUR HOSPITAL, PLEASE.
THANKS
IF YOU HADN'T OPERATED, THEY'D BE DEAD FOR SURE.
THANKS TO THE MEASURES YOU TOOK IN THE AMBULANCE, ALL THREE WERE SAVED!


I WON'T HAVE THAT.
I'M NOT ALONE. SOME OTHER TIME.
YOU JERK, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU'D PLIED YOUR TRADE?
ALL RIGHT. FIFTY YEN.
BUT NAME YOUR FEE.
THIS ISN'T THE BEST PLACE,
AH, MY TRAIN.
NOT AT ALL. IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T DO MUCH ...
DOCTOR, ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF US?
IS THAT TOO MUCH? THEN THIRTY YEN!
A LIFE'S A LIFE. WHY THE DIFFERENCE?
WHY IS MY FEE FIFTY MILLION AND THEIRS JUST FIFTY?
DOCTOR!! FIFTY YEN?!


I'VE GOT... PREVENTIVE MEDICINE HERE. PLEASE GIVE THIS TO HIM.
?
?
THAT PATIENT MIGHT GET UNWELL AGAIN.
OH, BY THE WAY ...
I DO NOT!
NO!
MR. KAPPA, DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOME ON YOU, TOO?
THAT'Sooo
HERE WE GO.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE UP MY STYLE.
HAD I HEARD YOU WRONG?
N
YOU FOOL ...
NIN COM POOP !
ゴトゴトン
ゴトゴトン
HE'LL BE RECOVERING FULLY.

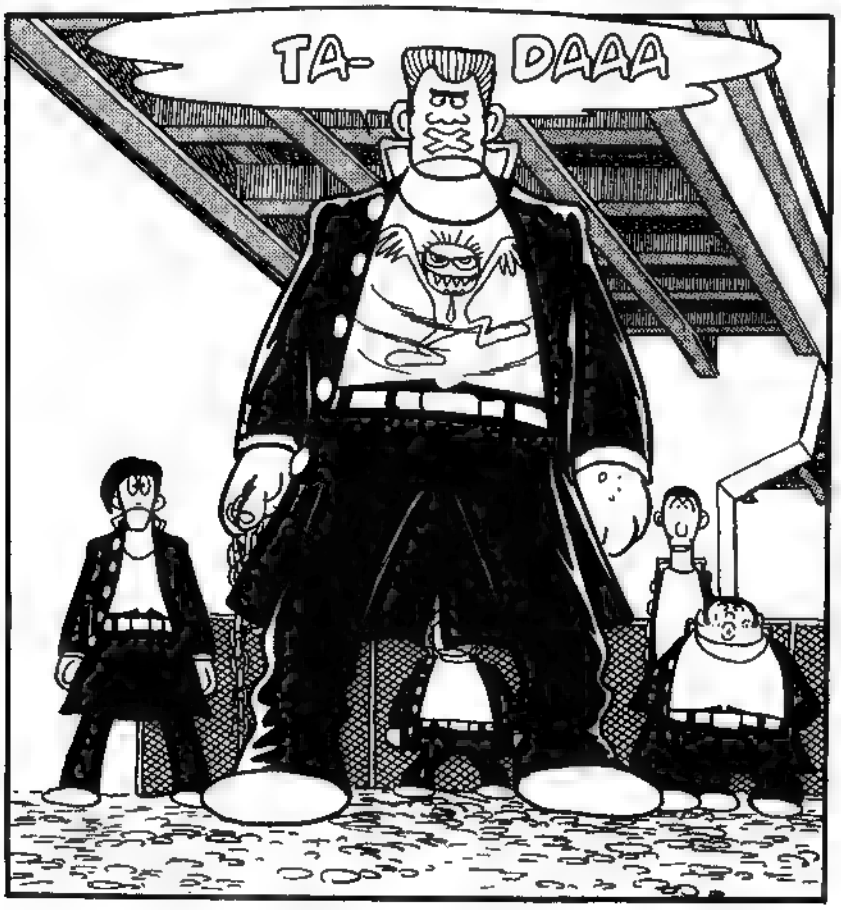

HAVE YOU GONE CUCKOO?
YEAH... YOU SEE, I JUST DO WHAT I FEEL LIKE.
YOU JUST THREW AWAY EIGHTY MILLION YEN.
THANKS, HEH.
FIFTY YEN!
WHICH MEANS IF THAT SWELLING OF YOURS RECURS, I'LL TREAT YOU FOR FIFTY YEN.
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE.
SAY WHAT,

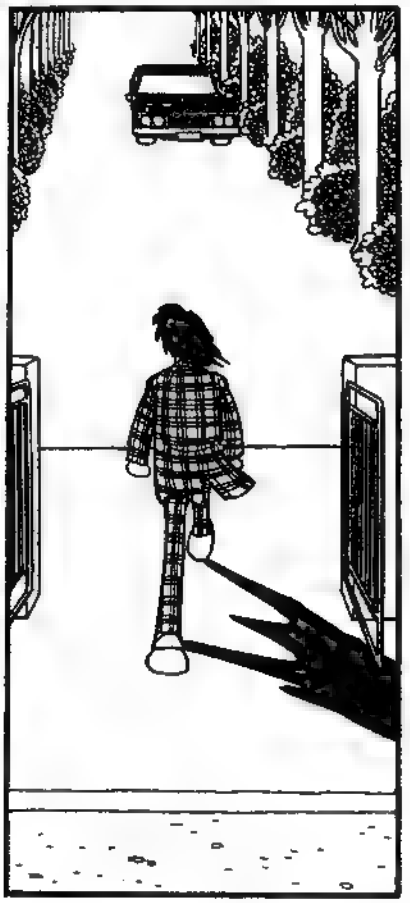
TALK


Hey Teach,
I'll be waiting for you under Badger Bridge.
-Shimezawa

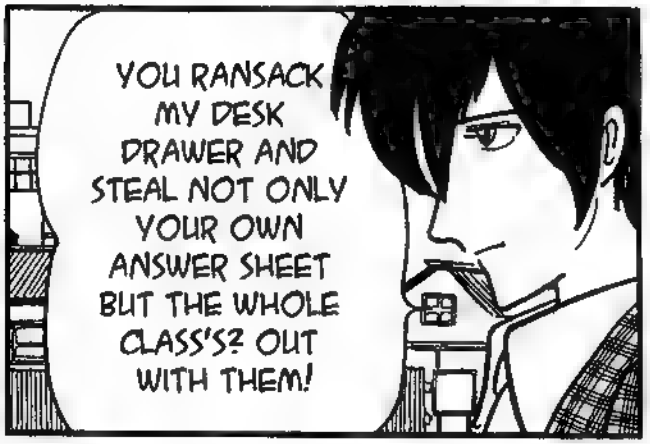





TA- DAAA



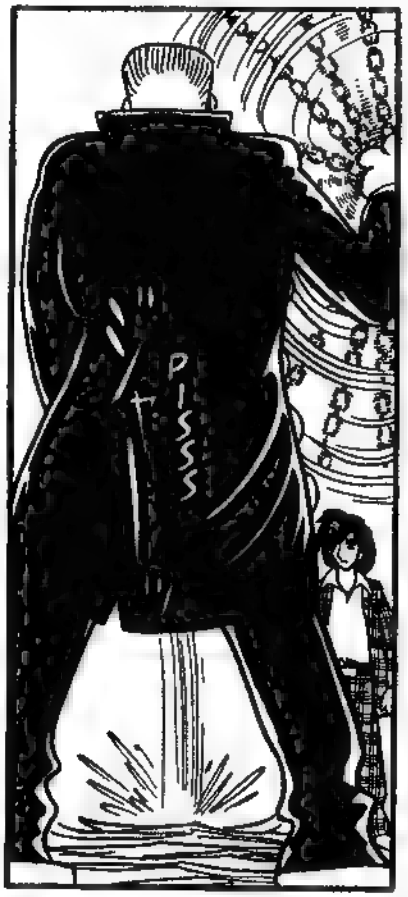

PIPE DOWN.
HE MIGHT NOT JUST TAKE IT THIS TIME.
TEACH IS HERE, BOSS.


YOU RANSACK MY DESK DRAWER AND STEAL NOT ONLY YOUR OWN ANSWER SHEET BUT THE WHOLE CLASS'S? OUT WITH THEM!


THE ANSWER SHEETS. GIVE THEM BACK.


DON'T TRY ME. I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.


...


PISSS


FINE. HERE!


NOW COME AND GET IT...


SPLAT
NOW SAY SOME-THING.
YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN'T STAND ABOUT YOU? THOSE FAGGOT EYES. AND THE WHOLE NONVIOLENCE THING!
WAS THAT A DUD?
DAMN YOU.
SLAP
AH HA, WAY TO GO ...
ALMOST THERE! BECOME A MAN.

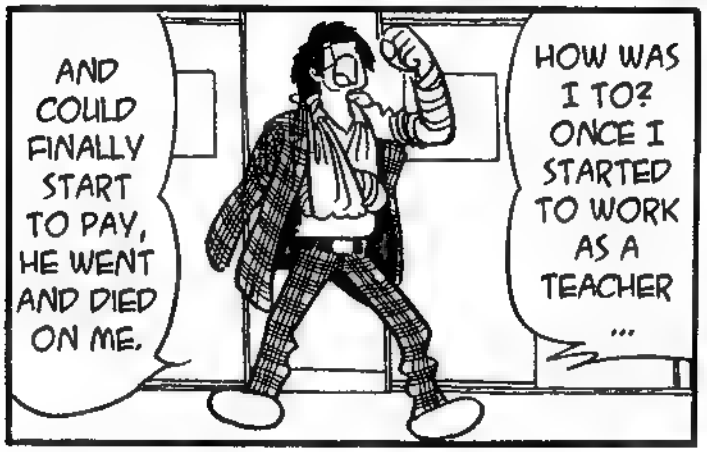

SLAP
SLAP
STAND, YELLOW BASTARD !!
I'M WARNING YA. NEXT TIME YOUR CLASS SUCKS,
I BASH IN YOUR FACE.
HUH, TOO EASY.
I'VE ASKED YOU TO LET ME HANDLE SHIMEZAWA, SIR.
PLEASE, DON'T EXPEL HIM.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPEL HIM.
THIS SCHOOL CAN'T ABIDE SHIMEZAWA ANY LONGER.
HE'S ALREADY GIVEN OUR SCHOOL A BAD NAME !
WHY IS IT? WHY DO YOU DEFEND A STUDENT WHO BEATS YOU UP?


YOUR "NONVIOLENCE" WON'T LEAD TO ANY PARLEY.
HE'S LIKE CANCER.
I NEED MORE TIME!
I'M WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM.
I HAVEN'T MET HIM IN 12 YEARS.
THIS PERSON WANTS TO SEE YOU.
LONG TIME NO SEE, BLACK JACK. WHAT'S WITH THE STUFFY COAT?
AT LAST. NOW PAY FOR THE OP.
I'VE FOUND YOU ...
WHAT'S THIS OUT OF THE BLUE?
OP 2!


I MEAN THE ONE TWELVE YEARS AGO.
THESE WOUNDS ...

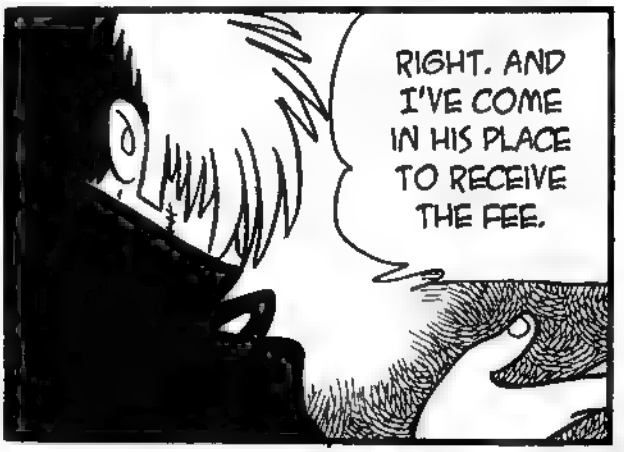

BUT THAT ONE WAS DONE BY A DOCTOR HONMA. WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH YOU?
YOU MEAN BACK IN SCHOOL?


TWELVE YEARS AGO?


AND COULD FINALLY START TO PAY, HE WENT AND DIED ON ME.
HOW WAS I TO? ONCE I STARTED TO WORK AS A TEACHER ...


YOU RAN AWAY AND NEVER PAID.
YES, BY DOCTOR JOTARO HONMA !


WHY SHOULD I BE PAYING YOU?!
YOU COLLECT DEBTS OR WHAT?


RIGHT. AND I'VE COME IN HIS PLACE TO RECEIVE THE FEE.


THIS IS A SCHOOL. COME SEE ME AT HOME.
SO THAT YOU CAN DISAPPEAR AGAIN?
NO, I'LL WAIT.
I HAVE A CLASS. HEAR THE BELL?
OH, TAKE YOUR TIME.
I DO HAVE ALL DAY.
YIKES
I TOLD YOU, I'M HERE FOR DOCTOR HONMA. HE WAS MY MENTOR.
WHEN I REVIEWED HIS MEDICAL ARCHIVES, I FOUND OUT YOU'D NEVER PAID. I CAME IN PERSON BECAUSE YOU WERE ONCE MY CLASSMATE.


PUFF
HA HA... THE WORLD SURE IS A FUNNY PLACE.
THAT GUY, A TEACHER?
ASSIGNED TO A ROUGH SCHOOL TOO ...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? NO SMOKING IN CLASS,
NOT EVEN TO ANNOY ME!
SCRUCH
"YOU CAN TAKE A HORSE TO THE RIVER ..."
PFFF


SMOKE IN THE BATHROOM IF YOU HAVE TO.
KEEP IT UP!
YOO HOO
THE BUZZIN'S GETTIN' ON MY NERVES.
IS THERE A BEE?
WHAP
AFTER SCHOOL ...
YOU WON'T EVEN REACH THE GATE
SO YOU WANT SOME MORE, YOU ...
FAGGOT? FRAGILE
RIGHT, LET'S RESUME THEN.
ANY-THING ELSE?
SHIT ... THAT DOES IT.

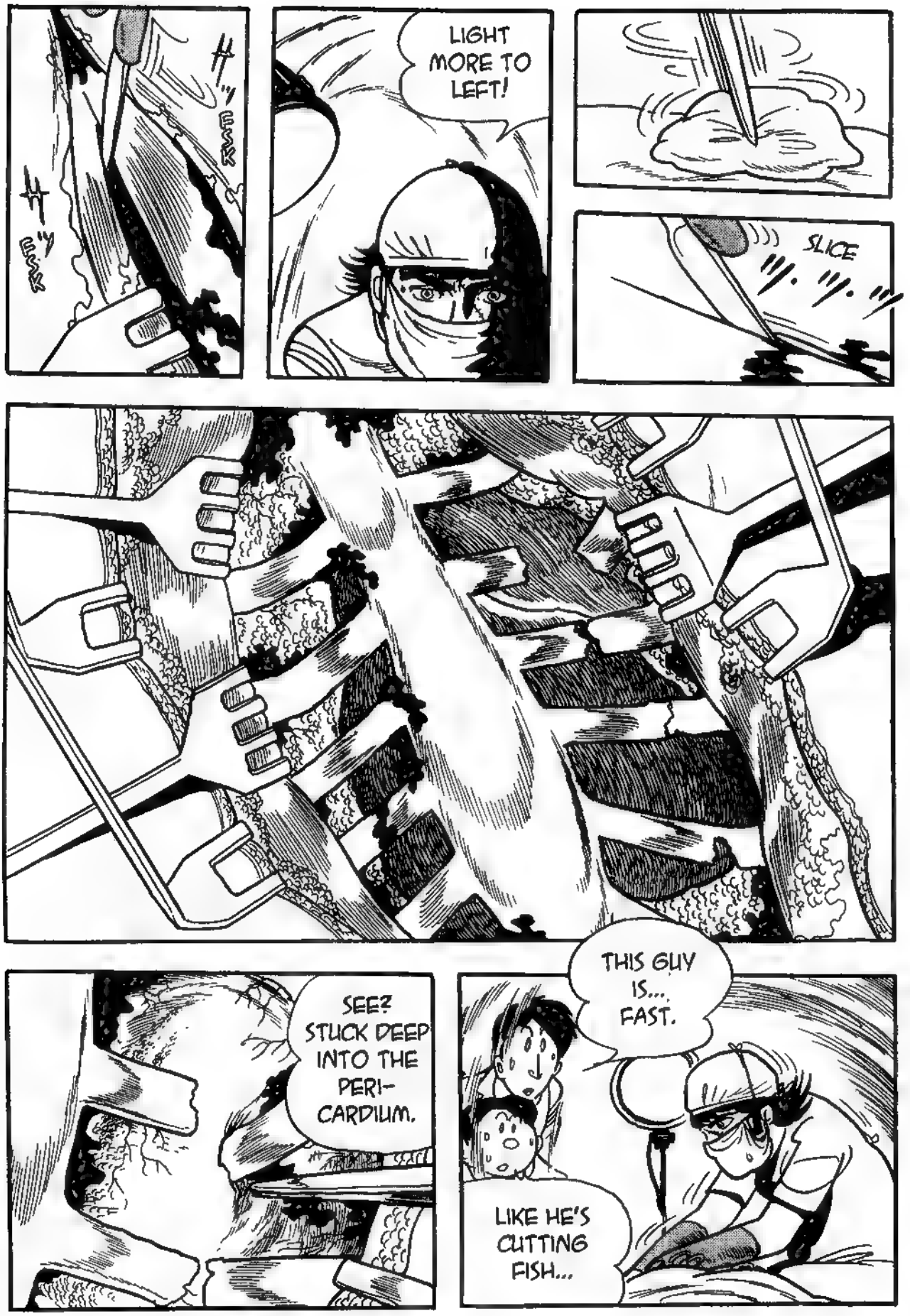

HE WENT BEHIND THE GYM TEN MINUTES AGO.
MR. MURI?
...
TRYING TO ESCAPE? STILL, KINDA ODD.
THIS IS TERRIBLE. FIVE RIBS BROKEN!
WHO DID THIS TO HIM?!
I DID. DON'T LIKE IT, GEEZER?

NOTE: "MURI" MEANS *IMPOSSIBLE*. THE FIRST CHARACTER OF THE STUDENT'S NAME, SHIMEZAWA, LOOKS LIKE AN "X" LIKE HIS BANDAGES.


YO, GEEZER!
STAY OUT OF THIS UNLESS YOU WANT THE SAME.
THEY'RE STICKING INTO HIS LUNG. HEAVY INTERNAL BLEEDING... SOON HE'LL GET EDEMAS AND CYANOSIS.
A TEACH OR TWO CROAKIN' DON'T MEAN A THING.
WHAT IF HE DOES?
AND WHAT IF HE DIES?
DON'T KNOW WHAT DEATH MEANS.
I SEE. SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS...
HAVE A TASTE!!

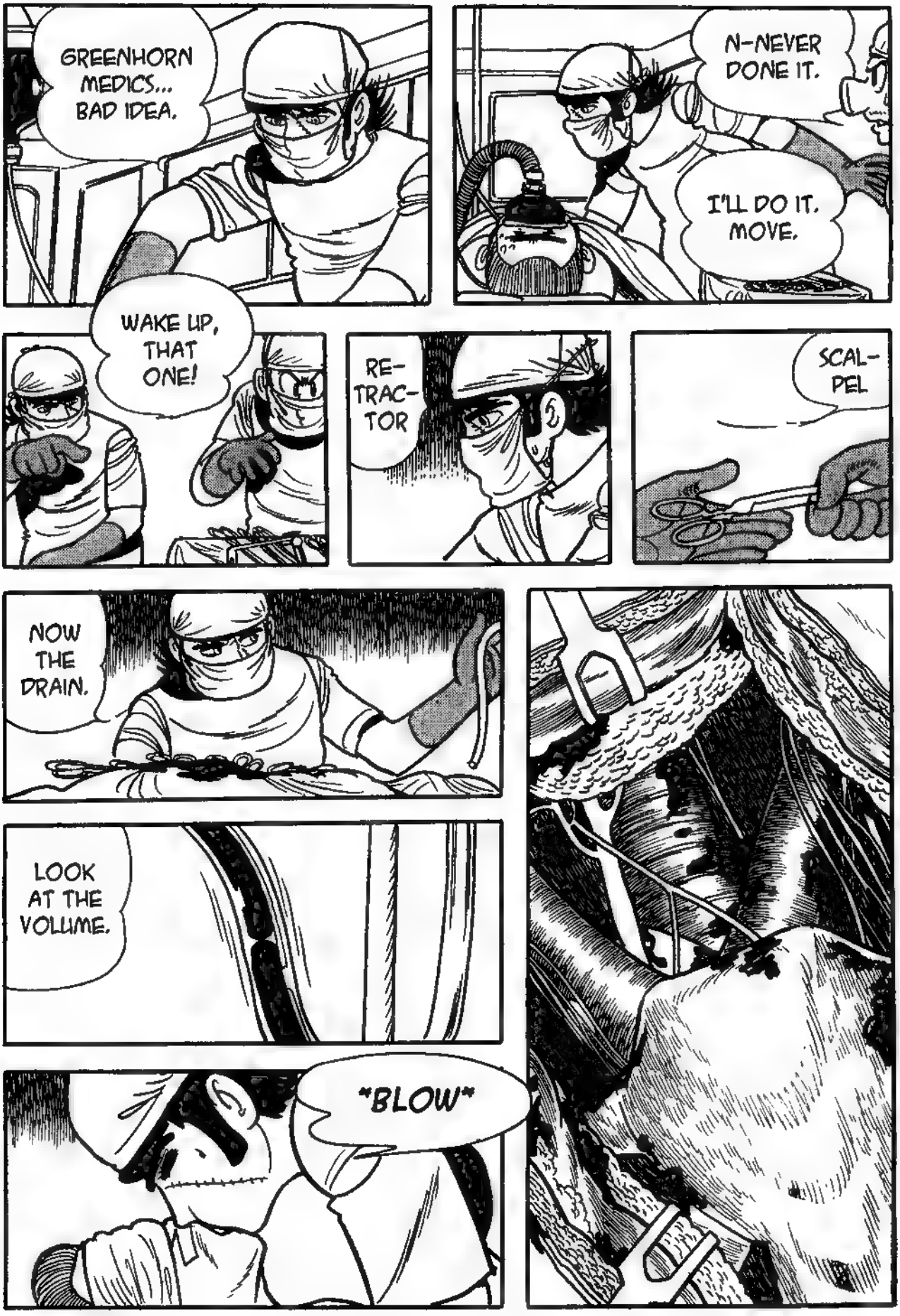

NGGA
WEISH
NAH, I DIDN'T HIT ANY VITAL POINT ...
ARGH
KILLER!
BUT HE SURE IS FEELING DEADLY PAIN!

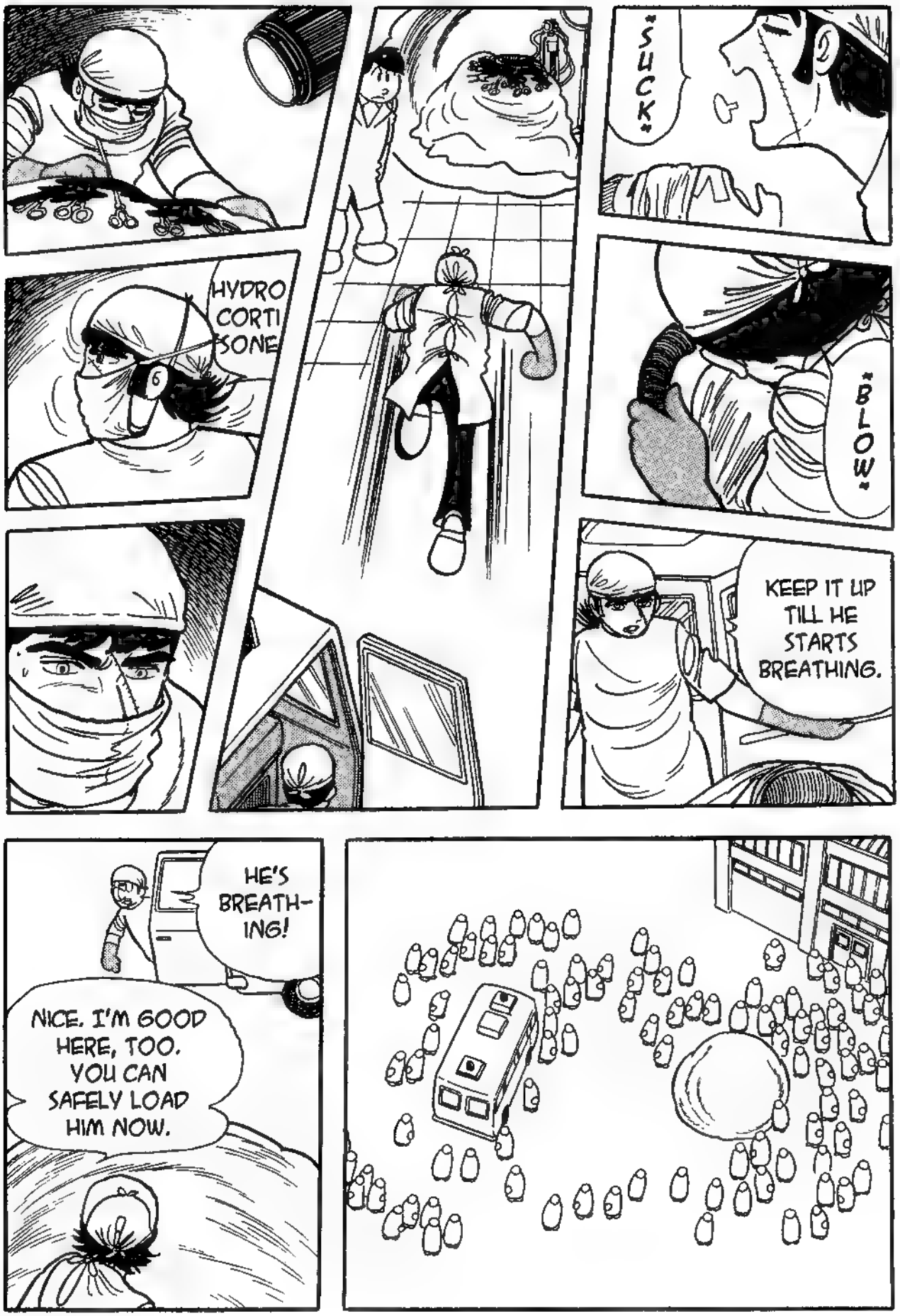

CHANCES FOR HIM ARE... FIFTY-FIFTY.
GOT TO ATTEND TO HIM FIRST.
WOEEE
WHAT'S THIS?
BLOAT
WOWOW
HE THE SCHOOL DOC?
DO A QUICK OP HERE.
YOU GUYS SUPPLY HIM WITH BLOOD WHILE I ...
WE CAN'T MOVE THE PATIENT! HIS RIB BONES WOULD GOUGE HIS LUNG AND HEART.
WE DON'T KNOW HIS TYPE.
SO CHECK IT!
GET TO IT!!

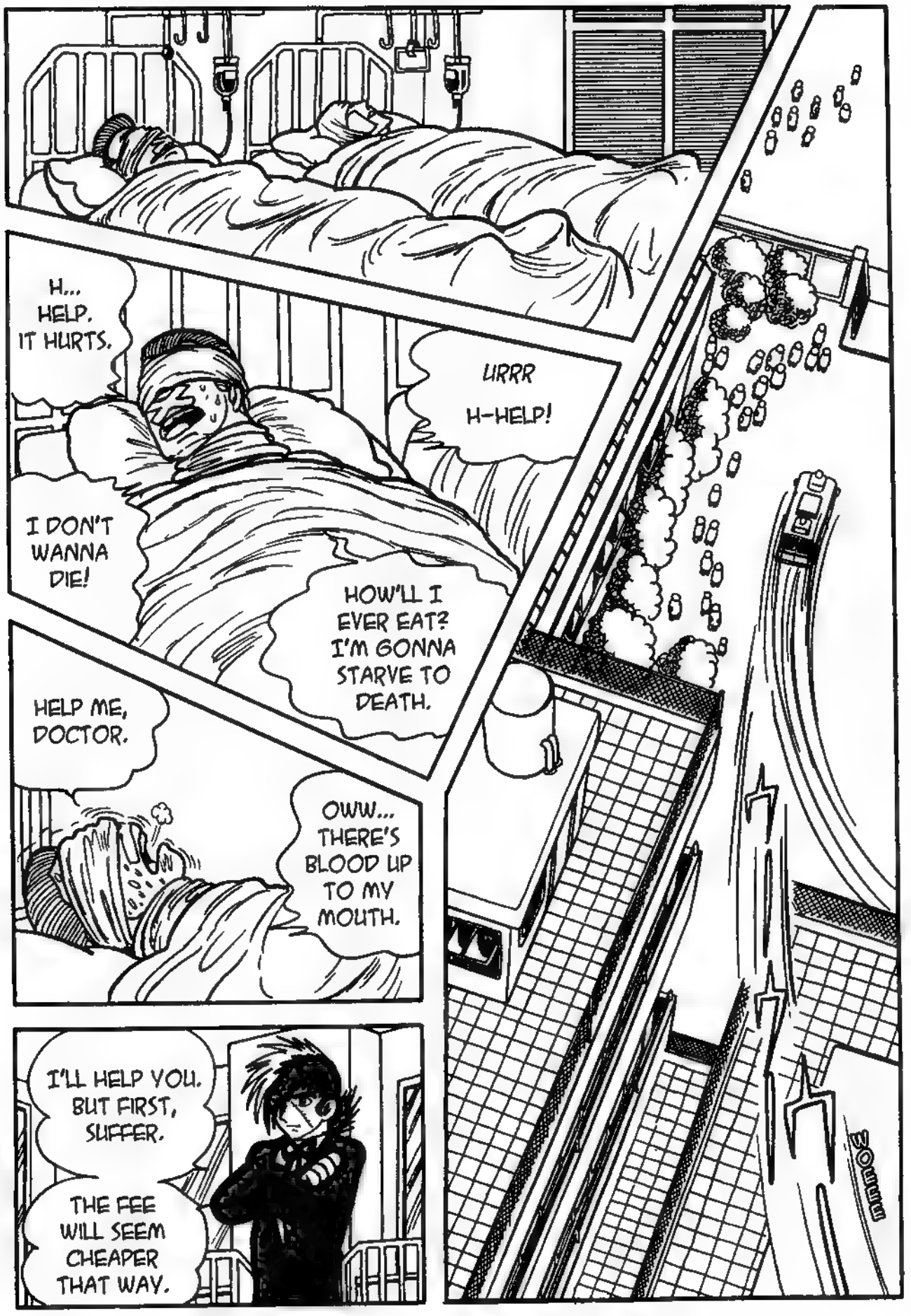

FISK
FISK
LIGHT MORE TO LEFT!
SLICE
SEE? STUCK DEEP INTO THE PERI-CARDIUM.
THIS GUY IS... FAST.
LIKE HE'S CUTTING FISH...

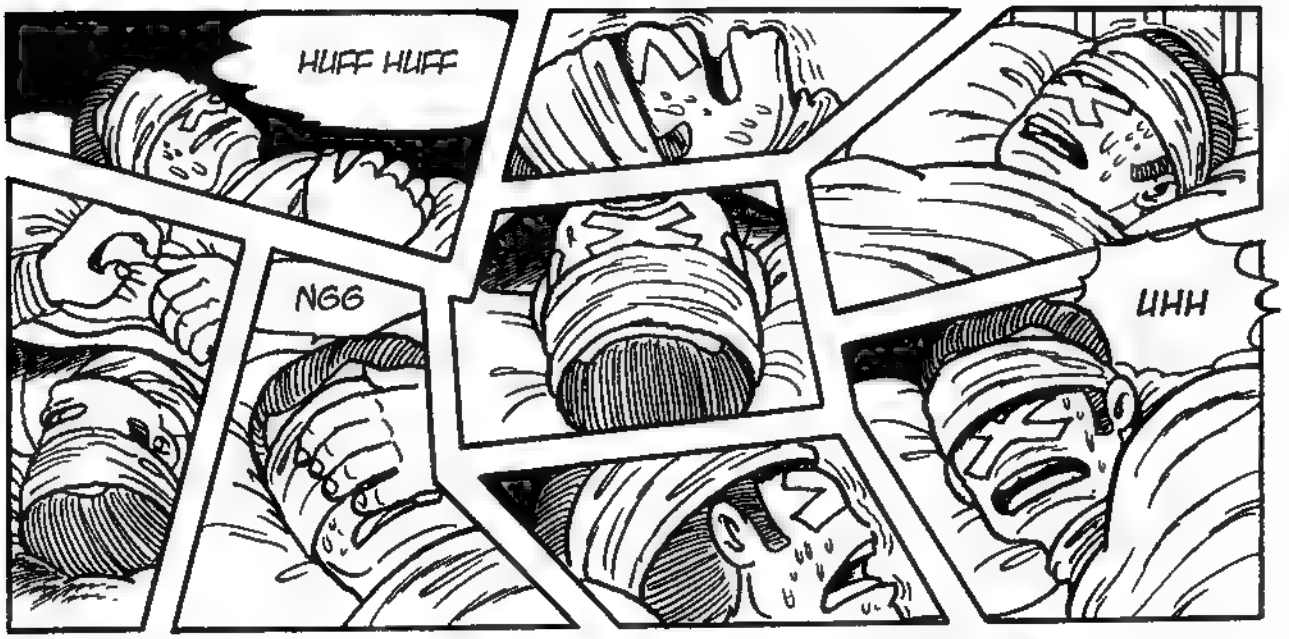

IT WOULD HAVE GONE THRU.
IF YOU'D LOADED HIM...
THE STUDENT'S BLEEDING MASSIVELY !!
MY HANDS ARE FULL HERE. DEAL WITH IT.
WHAT HAPPENED ?
HE TORE AT HIS THROAT... AND TORE HIS INTERNAL JUGULAR VEIN!
BUT NOW HE HAS CYAN-OSIS!
HE'S CHOKING ON HIS OWN BLOOD. WE'RE DRAINING IT...


WHAT AMA-TEURS!
AREN'T YOU MEDICS? YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO KEEP A PATIENT WITH NECK TRAUMA FROM SCRATCHING HIS THROAT?!
WAIT TILL I'M DONE SUTURING THE HEART!
HERE I COME.
DAMAGE REPAIRED. THE LUNG EDEMA ...
CAN WAIT.
DRAINING DIDN'T WORK?
NO GOOD. HE'S STOPPED BREATHING. WEAK PULSE.
THEN HE NEEDS A TRACHEO-TOMY!


GREENHORN MEDICS... BAD IDEA.
N-NEVER DONE IT.
I'LL DO IT. MOVE.
WAKE UP, THAT ONE!
RE-TRAC-TOR
SCAL-PEL
NOW THE DRAIN.
LOOK AT THE VOLUME.
"BLOW"


HYDRO CORTI SONE
SUCK
BLOW
KEEP IT UP TILL HE STARTS BREATHING.
HE'S BREATH-ING!
NICE. I'M GOOD HERE, TOO. YOU CAN SAFELY LOAD HIM NOW.


H... HELP. IT HURTS.
URRR H-HELP!
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
HOW'LL I EVER EAT? I'M GONNA STARVE TO DEATH.
HELP ME, DOCTOR.
OWW... THERE'S BLOOD UP TO MY MOUTH.
I'LL HELP YOU. BUT FIRST, SUFFER.
THE FEE WILL SEEM CHEAPER THAT WAY.
BOOM!!!


HUFF HUFF
NGG
UHH

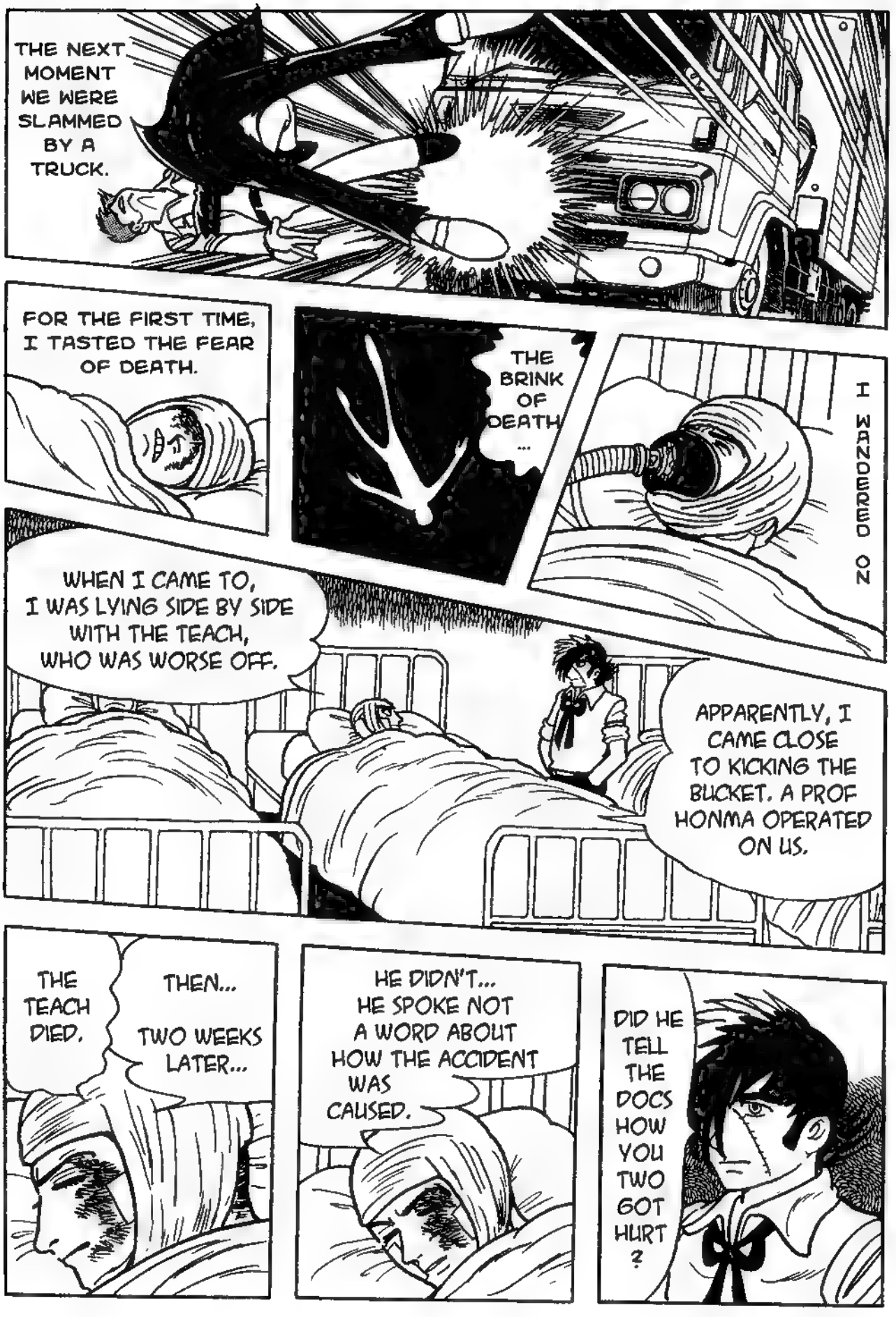

SO WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER? IT'S QUITE A CHANGE OF HEART.

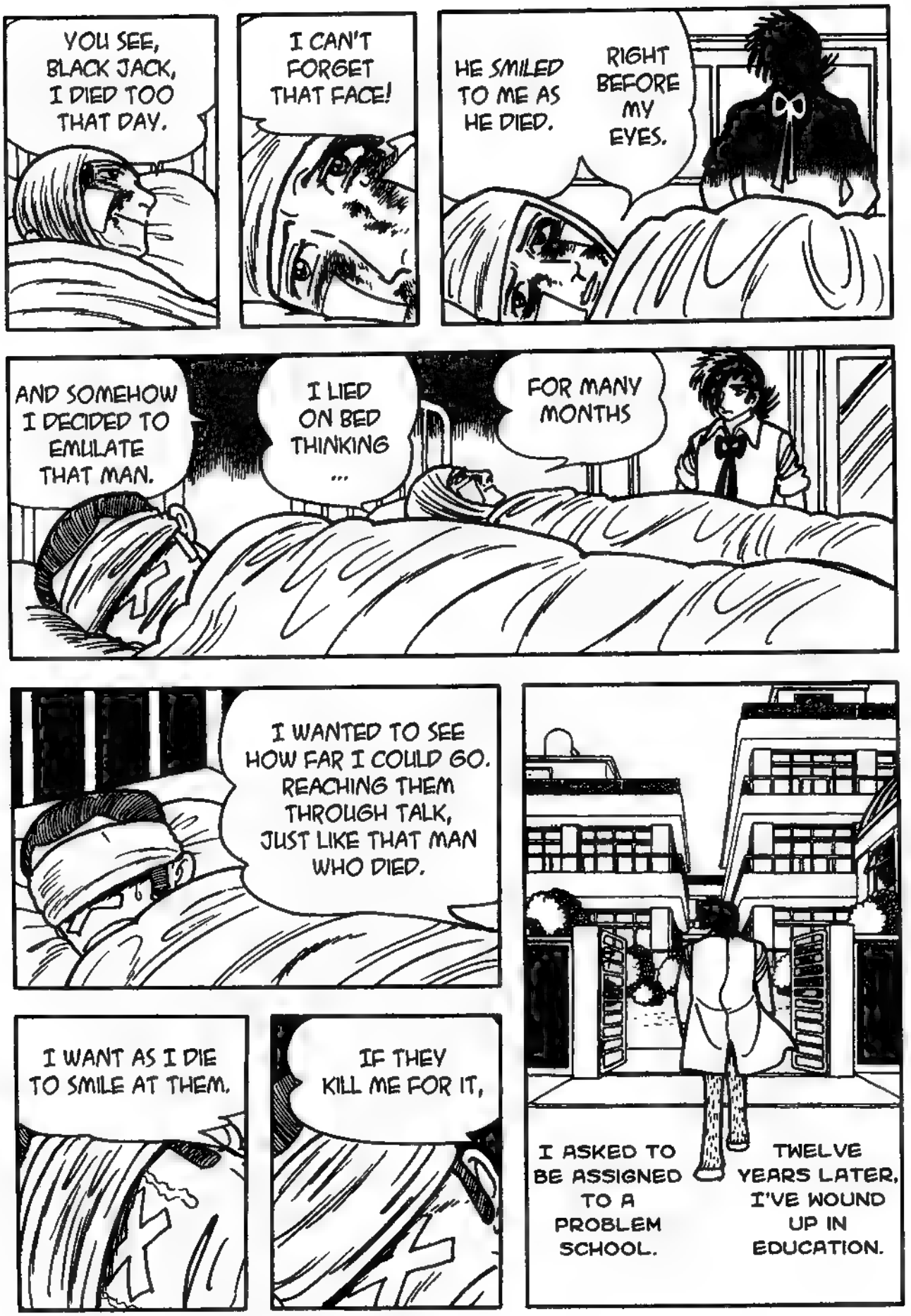

TWELVE YEARS AGO YOU WERE ONE ROTTEN DELINQUENT.


HA HA... THAT ME. HE DIED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.


REMINDS ME OF ME BACK THEN.
IT'S REALLY DOING HIM IN.

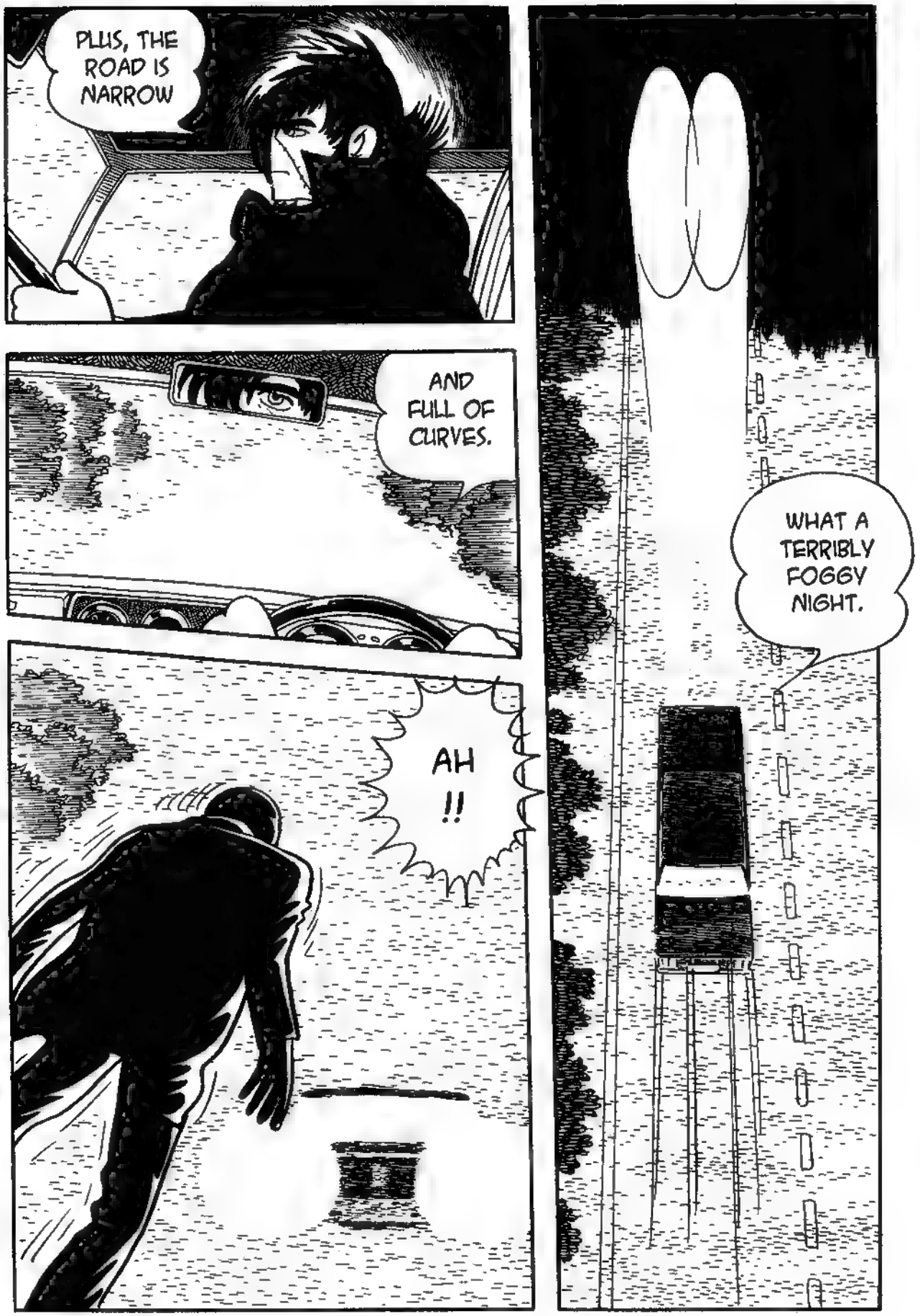

EXCEPT THIS ONE TEACH, HE'D TALK TO ME LIKE AN EQUAL NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN I DISHED OUT.
IF I LET HIM KEEP IT UP, I'D LOSE FACE.
NONE OF THEM DARED GIVE ME A TALKING-TO.
I HARASSED TEACHERS LIKE IT WAS A SPORT.
I TOLD HIM TO COME TO A LAND BRIDGE.
I NEEDED TO MAIM HIM.
AND WE FELL.
AS WE GRAPPLED, THE RAILING CAME LOOSE

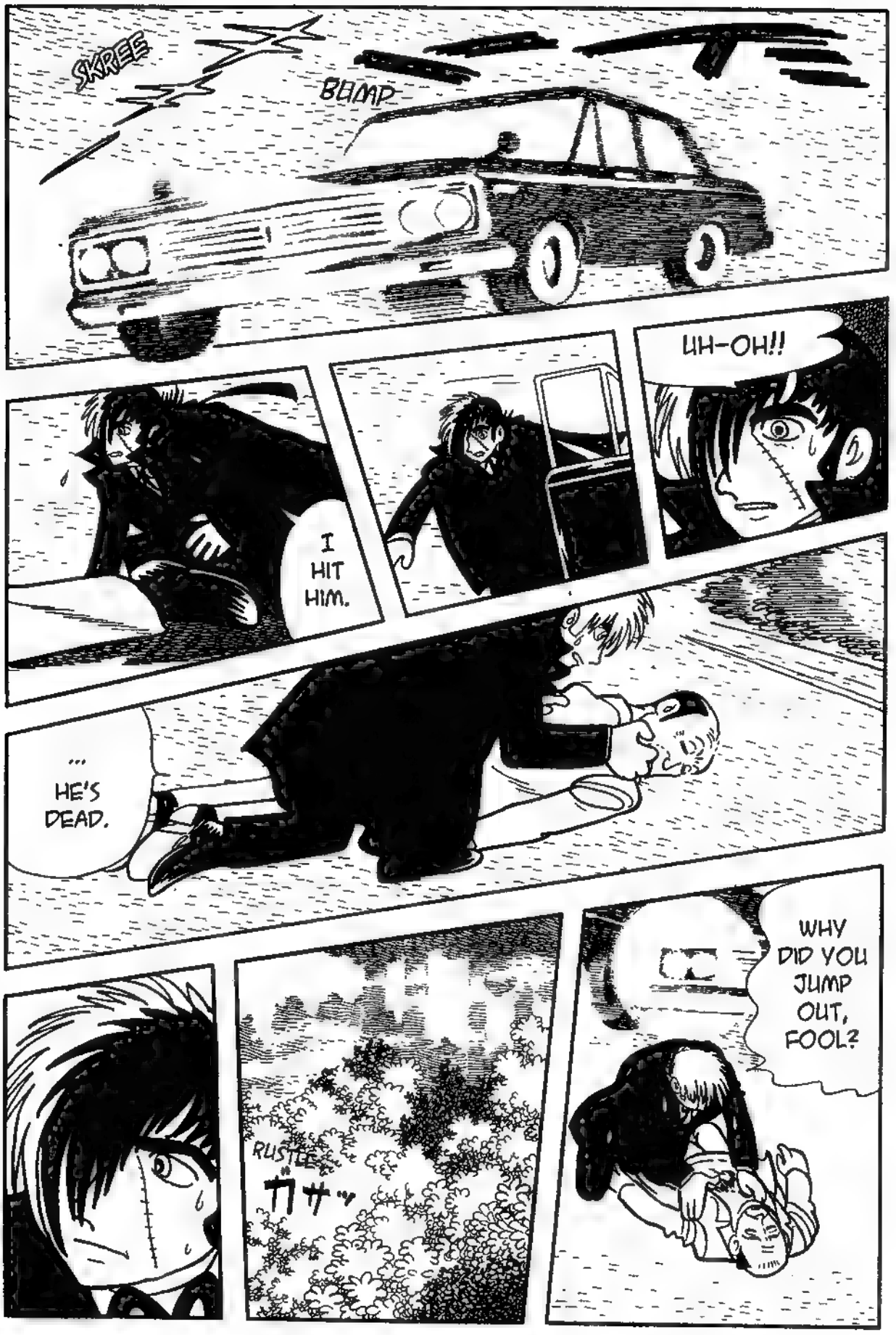

THE NEXT MOMENT WE WERE SLAMMED BY A TRUCK.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I TASTED THE FEAR OF DEATH.
THE BRINK OF DEATH ...
I WANDERED ON
WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS LYING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE TEACH, WHO WAS WORSE OFF.
APPARENTLY, I CAME CLOSE TO KICKING THE BUCKET. A PROF HONMA OPERATED ON US.
THE TEACH DIED.
THEN... TWO WEEKS LATER...
HE DIDN'T... HE SPOKE NOT A WORD ABOUT HOW THE ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED.
DID HE TELL THE DOCS HOW YOU TWO GOT HURT?


YOU SEE, BLACK JACK, I DIED TOO THAT DAY.
I CAN'T FORGET THAT FACE!
HE SMILED TO ME AS HE DIED.
RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
AND SOMEHOW I DECIDED TO EMULATE THAT MAN.
I LIED ON BED THINKING ...
FOR MANY MONTHS
I WANTED TO SEE HOW FAR I COULD GO. REACHING THEM THROUGH TALK, JUST LIKE THAT MAN WHO DIED.
I WANT AS I DIE TO SMILE AT THEM.
IF THEY KILL ME FOR IT,
I ASKED TO BE ASSIGNED TO A PROBLEM SCHOOL.
TWELVE YEARS LATER, I'VE WOUND UP IN EDUCATION.


FOR THAT SCUM PUPIL OF YOURS TOO.
I NEED YOU TO PAY UP TWICE OVER, TO DR. HONMA AND NOW ME.
HAH, I WON'T LET YOU DIE.
...
BRING IT ON. I WANT TO PUT MY BODY ON THE LINE.
HA HA HA
FIFTEEN YEARS LATER
PRETTY INFAMOUS FOR ITS ROUGH STUDENT BODY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO WORK AT THAT SCHOOL? IT'S...

POCKET MONKEY

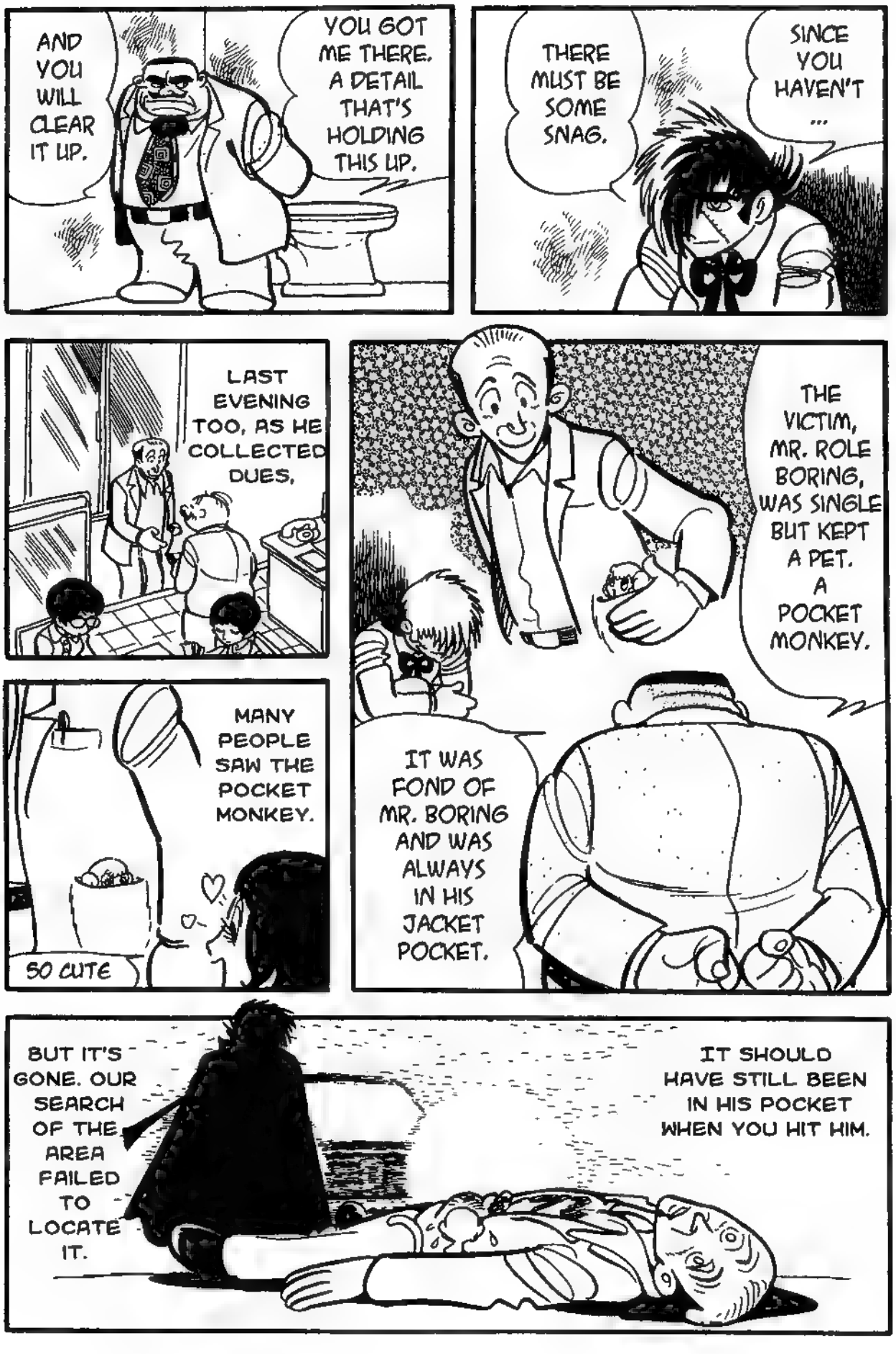

PLUS, THE ROAD IS NARROW
AND FULL OF CURVES.
AH !!
WHAT A TERRIBLY FOGGY NIGHT.


SKREEE
BUMP
UH-OH!!
I HIT HIM.
... HE'S DEAD.
WHY DID YOU JUMP OUT, FOOL?
RUSTLE
ガサッ


PRETTY MUCH.
IT WAS PURELY AN ACCIDENT.
SO HE JUST SAUNTERED OUT ONTO THE ROAD IN THE FOG,
YAMAMOTO POLICE
AND YOU HARDLY HAD TIME TO SLAM THE BRAKES?
...
THE DEPOSITION SAYS YOU PRACTICE ILLEGALLY.
DIDN'T YOU CHECK HIS INJURIES AFTERWARDS? YOU NEVER GAVE HIM FIRST AID.
HE WAS DEAD.
CHIEF!
DON'T ASK ME!
THE MONEY WAS GONE SOMEHOW.
IT SAYS THE VICTIM SHOULD HAVE HAD THREE MILLION YEN ON HIM.


THAT IS TO SAY, THERE WAS AN INTENT TO KILL. TO MAKE SURE.
HE HAS TWO IDENTICAL SETS OF TIRE PRINTS.
THE AUTOPSY SHOWS THAT THE VICTIM WAS ROLLED OVER TWICE BY THE CAR.
THAT CAN'T BE!
I THINK IT'S TIME TO TALK, DOC.
WHY DON'T YOU FESS UP, KILLER?
ON PURPOSE, TO ROB HIM OF ¥3 MILLION!
YOU RAN OVER HIM TO KILL HIM.
THE CHARGE IS NO LONGER ACCIDENTAL HOMICIDE, BUT MURDER !!

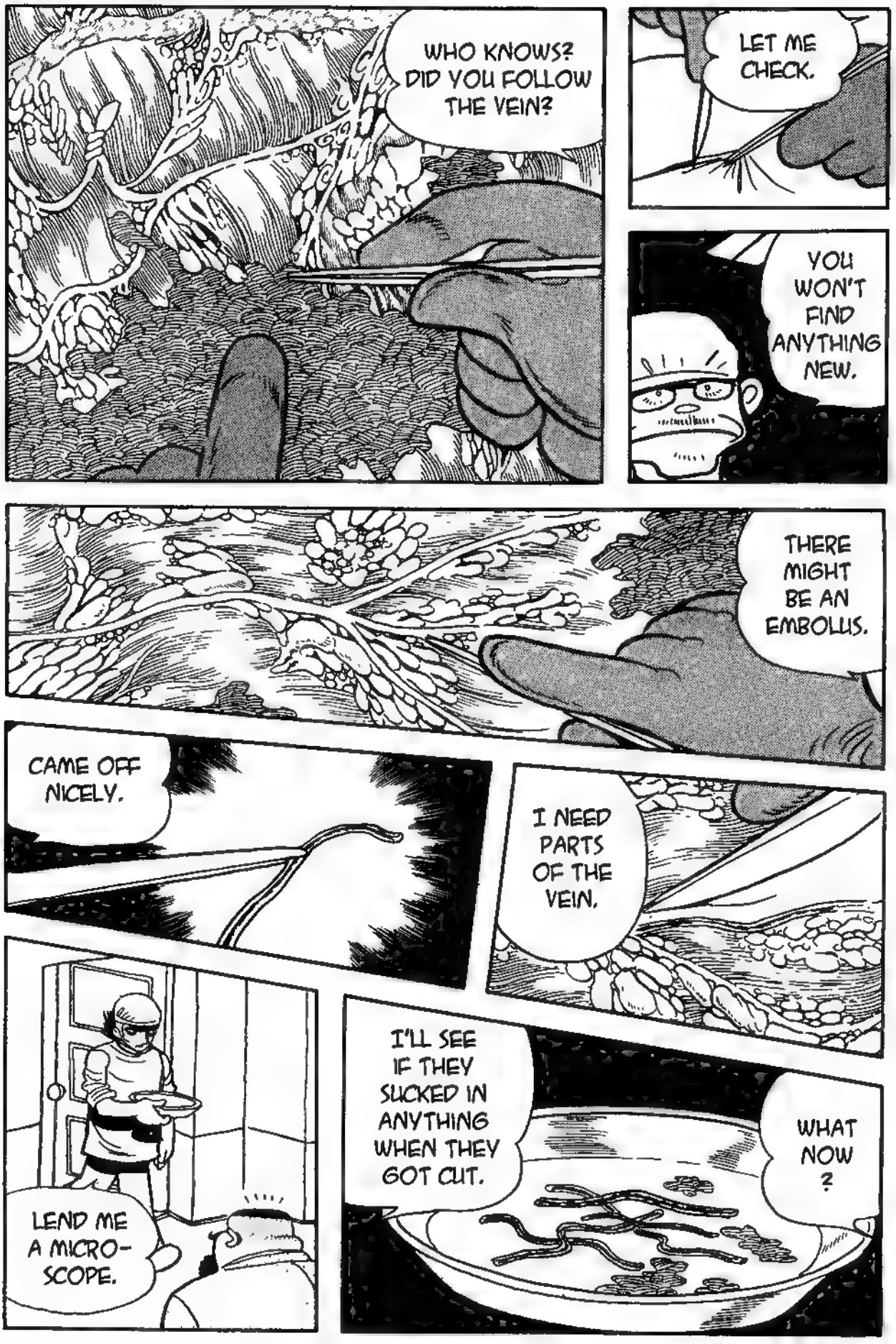

ALL RIGHT, NOW SPIT IT OUT.
THERE WAS BLOOD ON THE TIRE.
YOUR VEHICLE'S WEIGHT CONFORMS WITH THE FORENSICS.
DENYING IT IS NO USE. WE HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE.
IF YOU'RE SO SURE, THEN SEND ME TO COURT.
URG...
NOT ON PUR-POSE ...
I DID NOT KILL HIM!
YOU DON'T ROLL OVER A MAN TWICE BY MISTAKE!
ENOUGH!

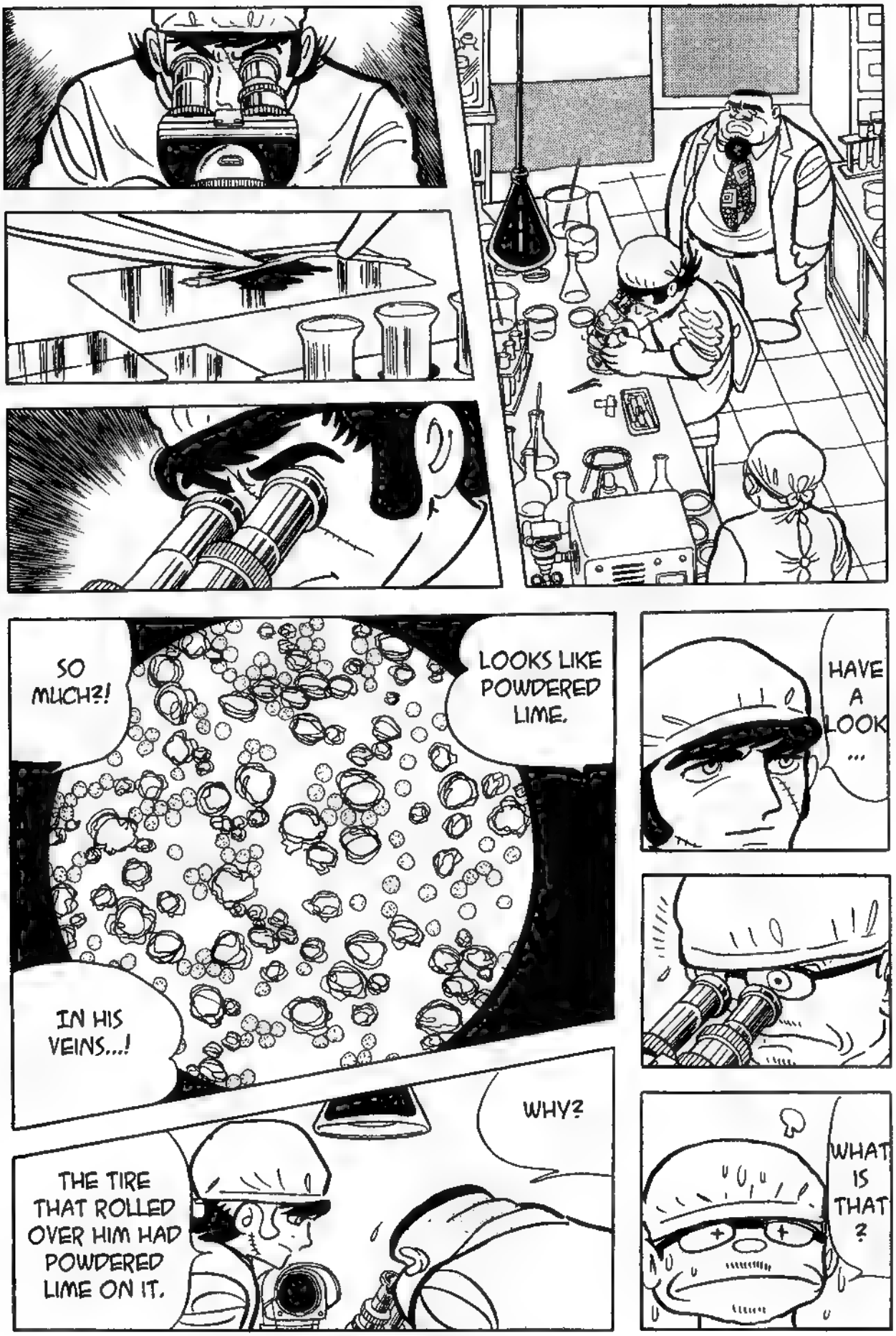

AND YOU WILL CLEAR IT UP.
YOU GOT ME THERE. A DETAIL THAT'S HOLDING THIS UP.
THERE MUST BE SOME SNAG.
SINCE YOU HAVEN'T ...
LAST EVENING TOO, AS HE COLLECTED DUES,
THE VICTIM, MR. ROLE BORING, WAS SINGLE BUT KEPT A PET. A POCKET MONKEY.
MANY PEOPLE SAW THE POCKET MONKEY.
SO CUTE
IT WAS FOND OF MR. BORING AND WAS ALWAYS IN HIS JACKET POCKET.
BUT IT'S GONE. OUR SEARCH OF THE AREA FAILED TO LOCATE IT.
IT SHOULD HAVE STILL BEEN IN HIS POCKET WHEN YOU HIT HIM.


WE'D HAVE FOUND IT EASILY.
BESIDES, WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
IF YOU
KILLED IT AND BURIED IT...
NOW THAT YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT, I DID HEAR A SOUND IN THE BRUSH.
IT MUST HAVE RUN AWAY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WHERE IS IT?
SINCE IT FITS IN A POCKET, TINY.
HOW SMALL EXACTLY IS THIS THING?
A SOUND?
INSPECTOR, LET ME GUESS. DOWN DEEP...
THIS THING WAS MUCH LARGER. I'D ASSUMED IT WAS A DOG OR SOMETHING.

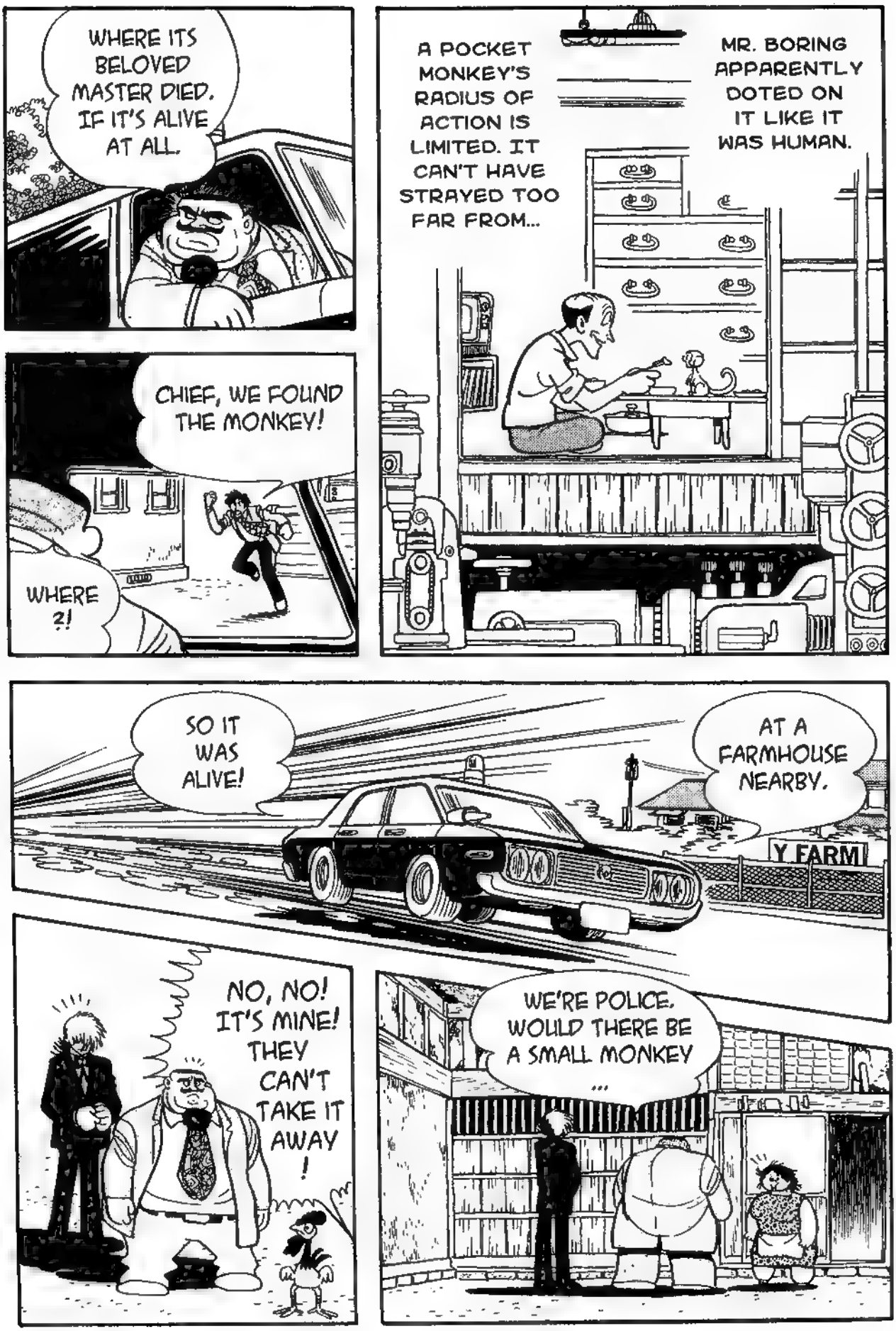

AND HAD LOADS OF CASH ON YOU!
Y-YOU'RE A FAKE DOCTOR
SHUDDAP! I HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT I KILLED HIM.
I HOPE, SIR,
LOOK, IF I'D ROLLED OVER HIM TWICE TO MAKE SURE, WHY'D I REPORT IT?
I'D JUST GOTTEN PAID BY A PATIENT.
MRR... WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT?
I'M A DOC-TOR.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT AUTOPSY REPORT ...
IF I MAY,
THAT YOUR CRIME I.D. IS SOUND!
THIS IS IT.

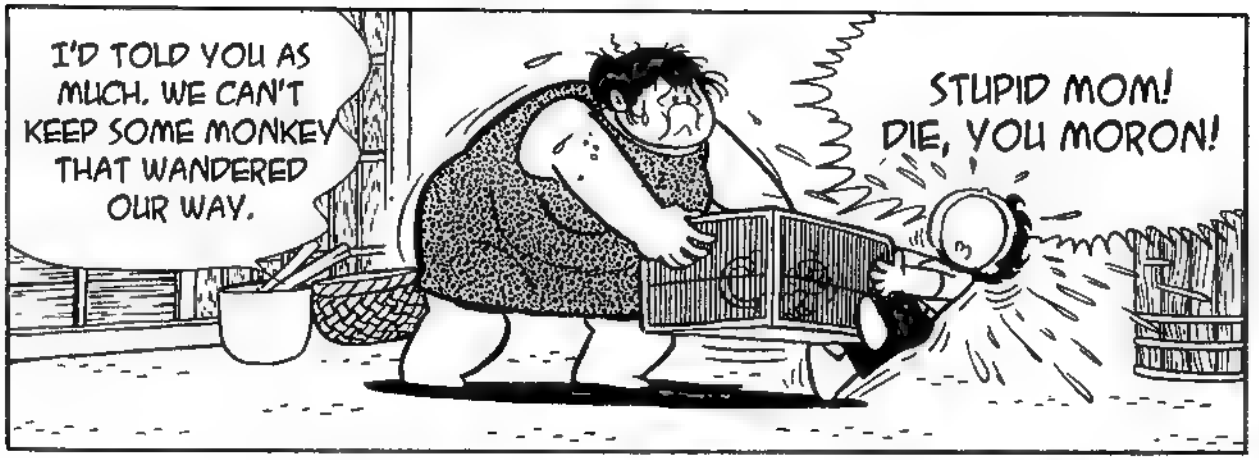

YOU'RE DONE WITH THE CORPSE.
SAY, MAY I REDO THAT AUTOPSY ?
HMM, RUPTURED KIDNEY AND INTES-TINES, BLOOD LOSS.
I'LL SEE TO IT ...
FINE !
WHAT KIND OF POLICE LETS A SUSPECT DO ITS I.D.?!
THIS DOESN'T SATISFY ME.
YUP !
SO THE GREAT OMENTUM LOOKED PRETTY BAD?
CRUSH DAMAGE TO RIGHT TORSO, BLOOD SPOTS.

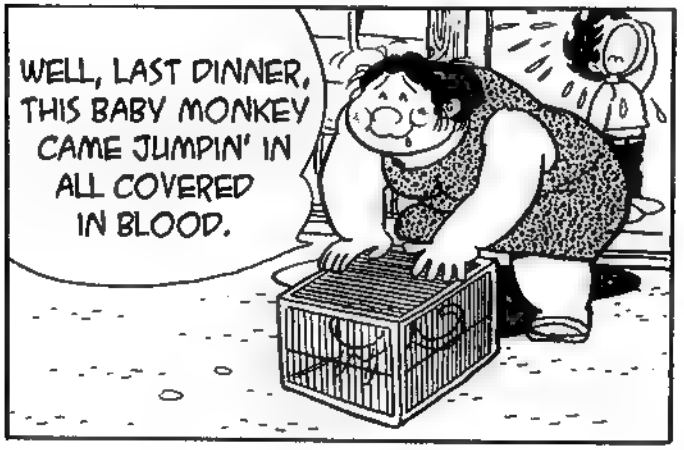

WHO KNOWS? DID YOU FOLLOW THE VEIN?
LET ME CHECK.
YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING NEW.
THERE MIGHT BE AN EMBOLUS.
CAME OFF NICELY.
I NEED PARTS OF THE VEIN.
LEND ME A MICRO-SCOPE.
I'LL SEE IF THEY SUCKED IN ANYTHING WHEN THEY GOT CUT.
WHAT NOW?


SO MUCH?!
LOOKS LIKE POWDERED LIME.
IN HIS VEINS...!
THE TIRE THAT ROLLED OVER HIM HAD POWDERED LIME ON IT.
WHY?
HAVE A LOOK ...
WHAT IS THAT?

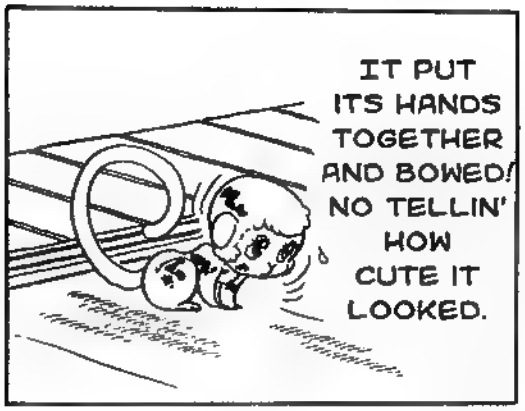

THERE'S A FACTORY 2 KM AHEAD!
KNOW OF, SAY, ANY CEMENT PLANT?
SO THE PERP'S VEHICLE SHOWS LARGE TRACES OF LIME?
FEEL FREE TO CHECK MY TIRES.
THE VEHICLE MUST HAVE DRIVEN OVER A BED OF LIME AT THIS PLANT.
CONDUCT ANOTHER THOROUGH SEARCH FOR THAT POCKET MONKEY!
NOT YET!
HAVE I BEEN CLEARED? TAKE OFF THESE CUFFS.
HE— I MEAN, IT—WAS THE SOLE WITNESS AT THE CRIME SCENE!
YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH THAT MONKEY. WHY?


WHERE ITS BELOVED MASTER DIED. IF IT'S ALIVE AT ALL.
A POCKET MONKEY'S RADIUS OF ACTION IS LIMITED. IT CAN'T HAVE STRAYED TOO FAR FROM...
MR. BORING APPARENTLY DOTED ON IT LIKE IT WAS HUMAN.
CHIEF, WE FOUND THE MONKEY!
WHERE?!
SO IT WAS ALIVE!
AT A FARMHOUSE NEARBY.
Y FARM
NO, NO! IT'S MINE! THEY CAN'T TAKE IT AWAY!
WE'RE POLICE. WOULD THERE BE A SMALL MONKEY ...


I'D TOLD YOU AS MUCH. WE CAN'T KEEP SOME MONKEY THAT WANDERED OUR WAY.
STUPID MOM! DIE, YOU MORON!

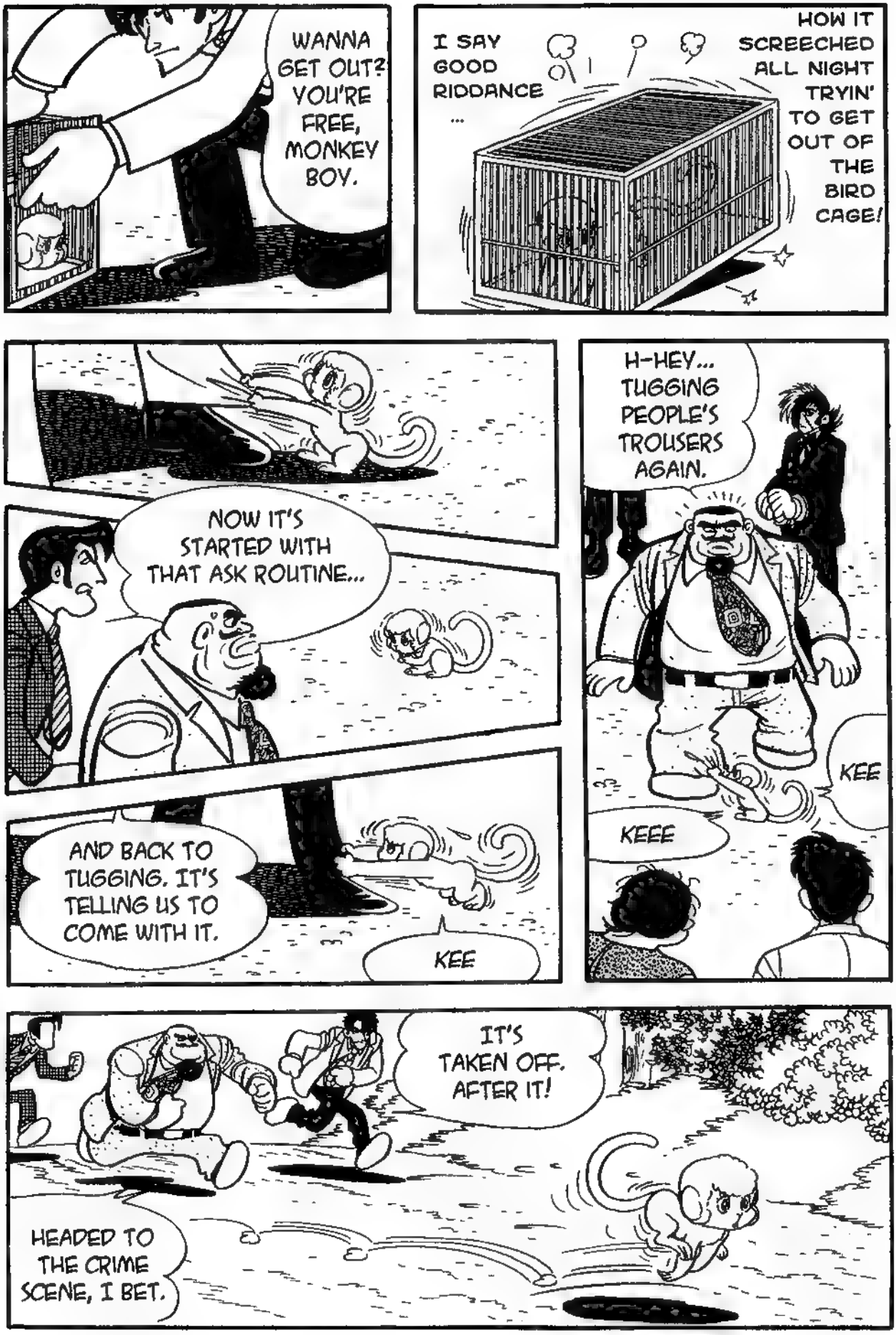

WELL, LAST DINNER, THIS BABY MONKEY CAME JUMPIN' IN ALL COVERED IN BLOOD.

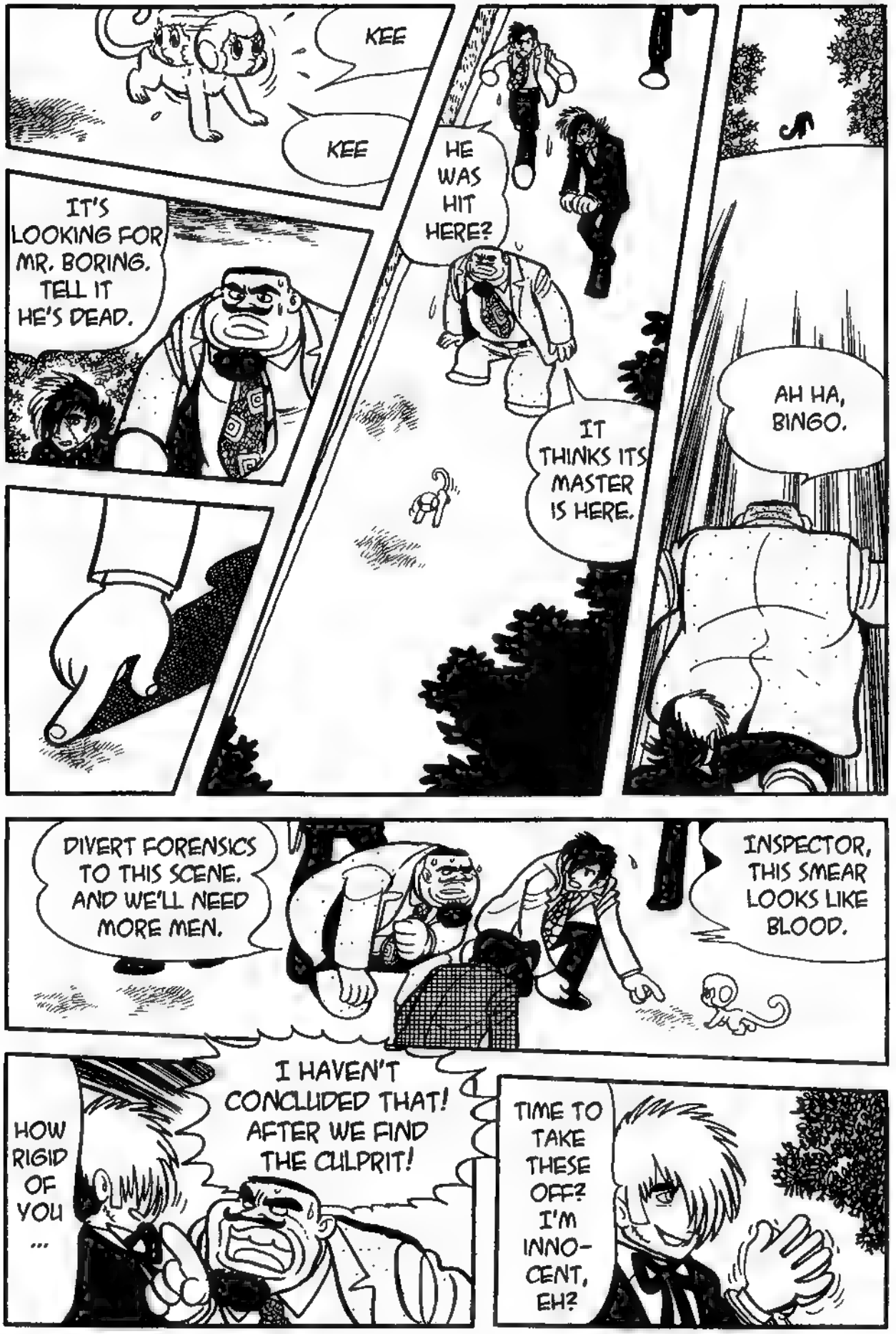

STOP BEING SELFISH OR I'LL HAVE THEM TAKE YOU TOO!


IT PUT ITS HANDS TOGETHER AND BOWED! NO TELLIN' HOW CUTE IT LOOKED.

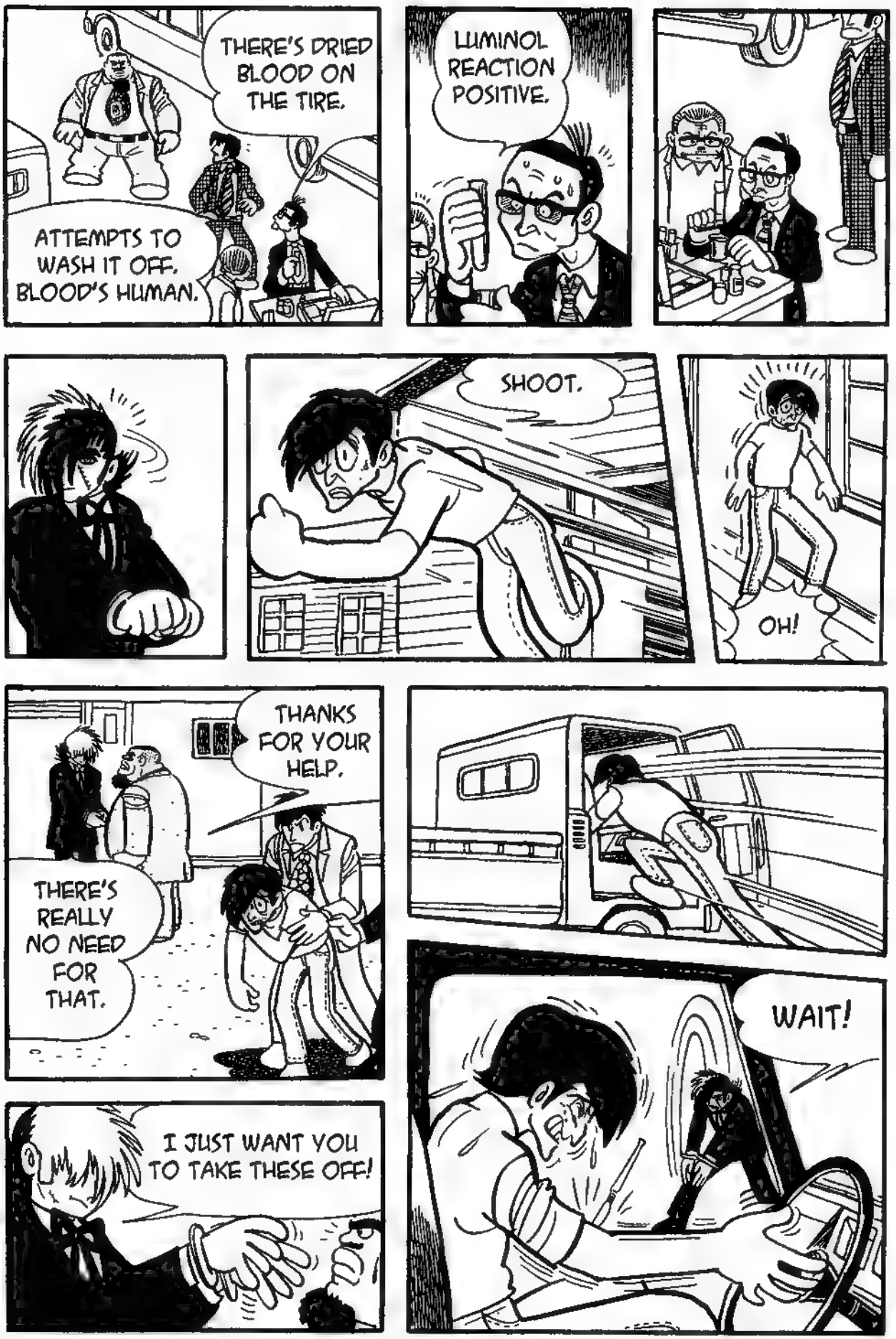

MY BOY BADLY WANTED IT FOR A PET, AND CAUGHT IT...


IT KEPT ON TUGGING AT MY MAN'S TROUSERS AS IF TO LEAD HIM SOMEWHERE.

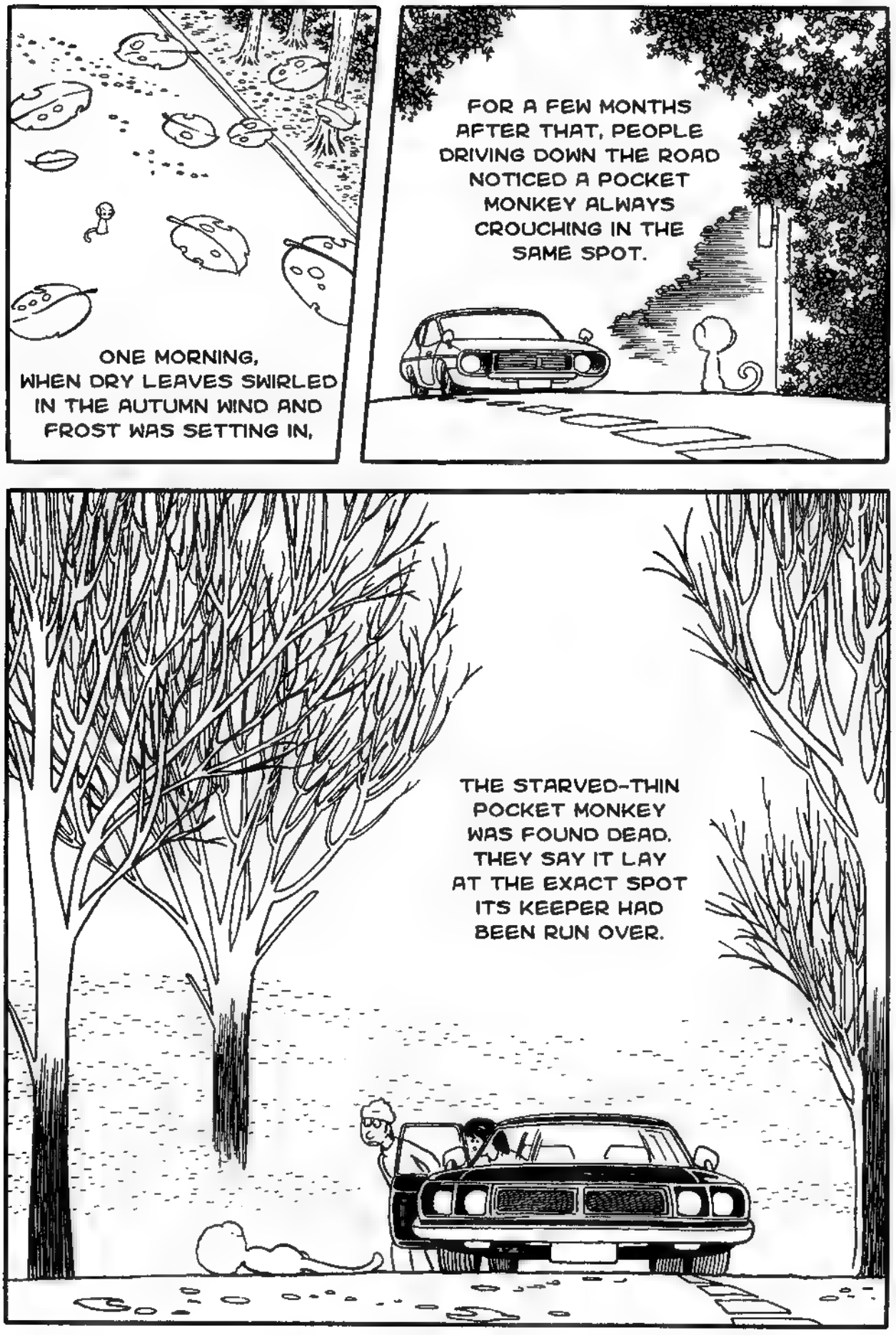

WANNA GET OUT? YOU'RE FREE, MONKEY BOY.
I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE ...
HOW IT SCREECHED ALL NIGHT TRYIN' TO GET OUT OF THE BIRD CAGE!
NOW IT'S STARTED WITH THAT ASK ROUTINE...
AND BACK TO TUGGING. IT'S TELLING US TO COME WITH IT.
KEE
H-HEY... TUGGING PEOPLE'S TROUSERS AGAIN.
KEE
KEEE
IT'S TAKEN OFF. AFTER IT!
HEADED TO THE CRIME SCENE, I BET.


KEE
KEE
IT'S LOOKING FOR MR. BORING. TELL IT HE'S DEAD.
HE WAS HIT HERE?
IT THINKS ITS MASTER IS HERE.
AH HA, BINGO.
DIVERT FORENSICS TO THIS SCENE. AND WE'LL NEED MORE MEN.
INSPECTOR, THIS SMEAR LOOKS LIKE BLOOD.
HOW RIGID OF YOU ...
I HAVEN'T CONCLUDED THAT! AFTER WE FIND THE CULPRIT!
TIME TO TAKE THESE OFF? I'M INNO-CENT, EH?

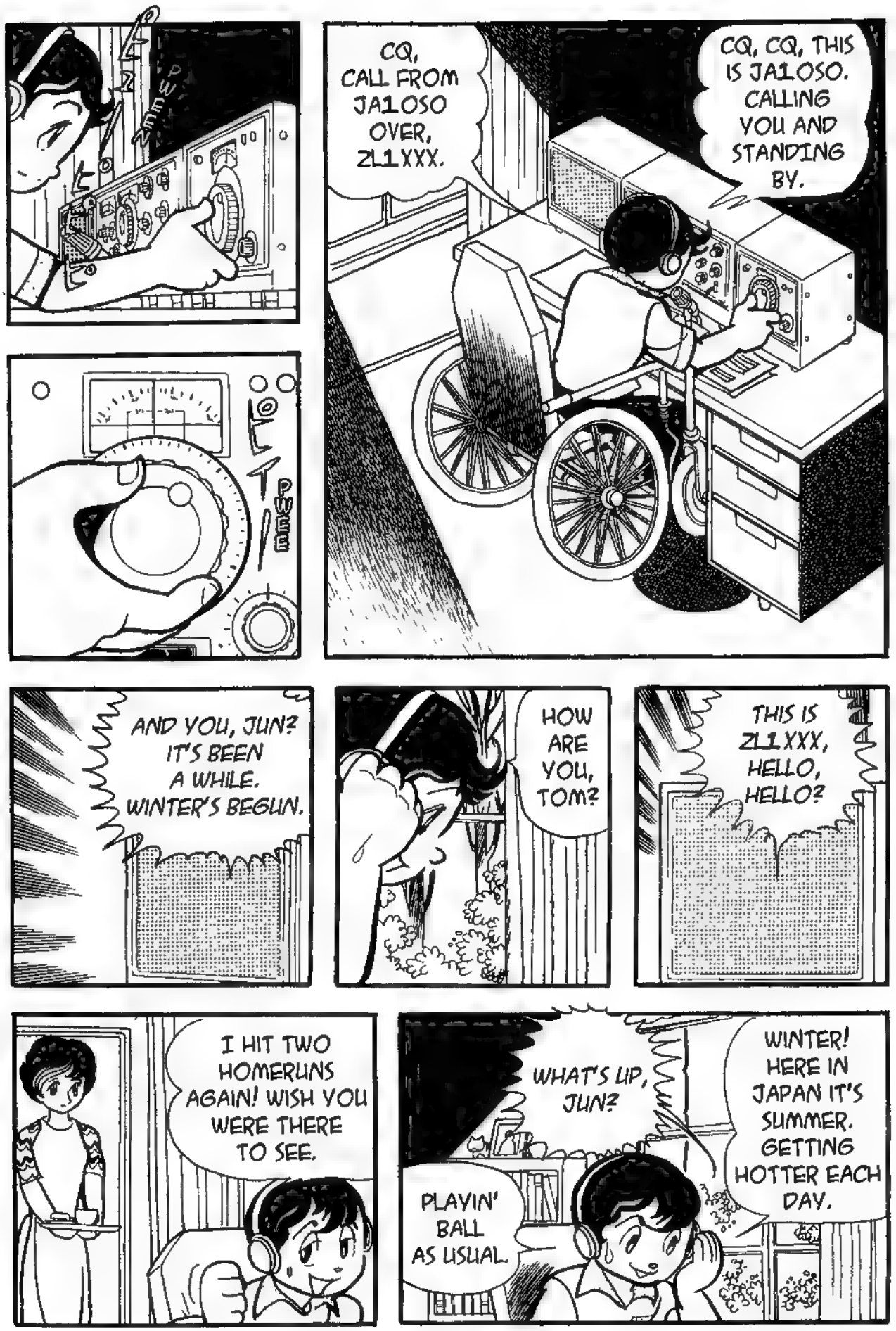

WHO DID IT!
YOU BE PATIENT, MY POCKET MONKEY BOY. I'LL FIND OUT ...
ABOUT 18:30. FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE DOC.
OKAY, SEARCH FOR CARS THAT CAME THIS WAY BEFORE DINNER ...
ROGER, WELL DONE !
BETWEEN 18:00 AND 18:30, ONLY ONE VEHICLE TOOK THE ROAD! A PICKUP BELONGING TO ALIBI TRANSPORT.
HERE!
ALIBI TRANSPORT
EXAMINE THOSE TIRES!
I.D. !
LAST EVENING? ONE OF OUR GUYS, MALLICE, TOOK IT OUT FOR WORK.


THERE'S DRIED BLOOD ON THE TIRE.
ATTEMPTS TO WASH IT OFF. BLOOD'S HUMAN.
LUMINOL REACTION POSITIVE.
SHOOT.
OH!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR THAT.
I JUST WANT YOU TO TAKE THESE OFF!
WAIT!

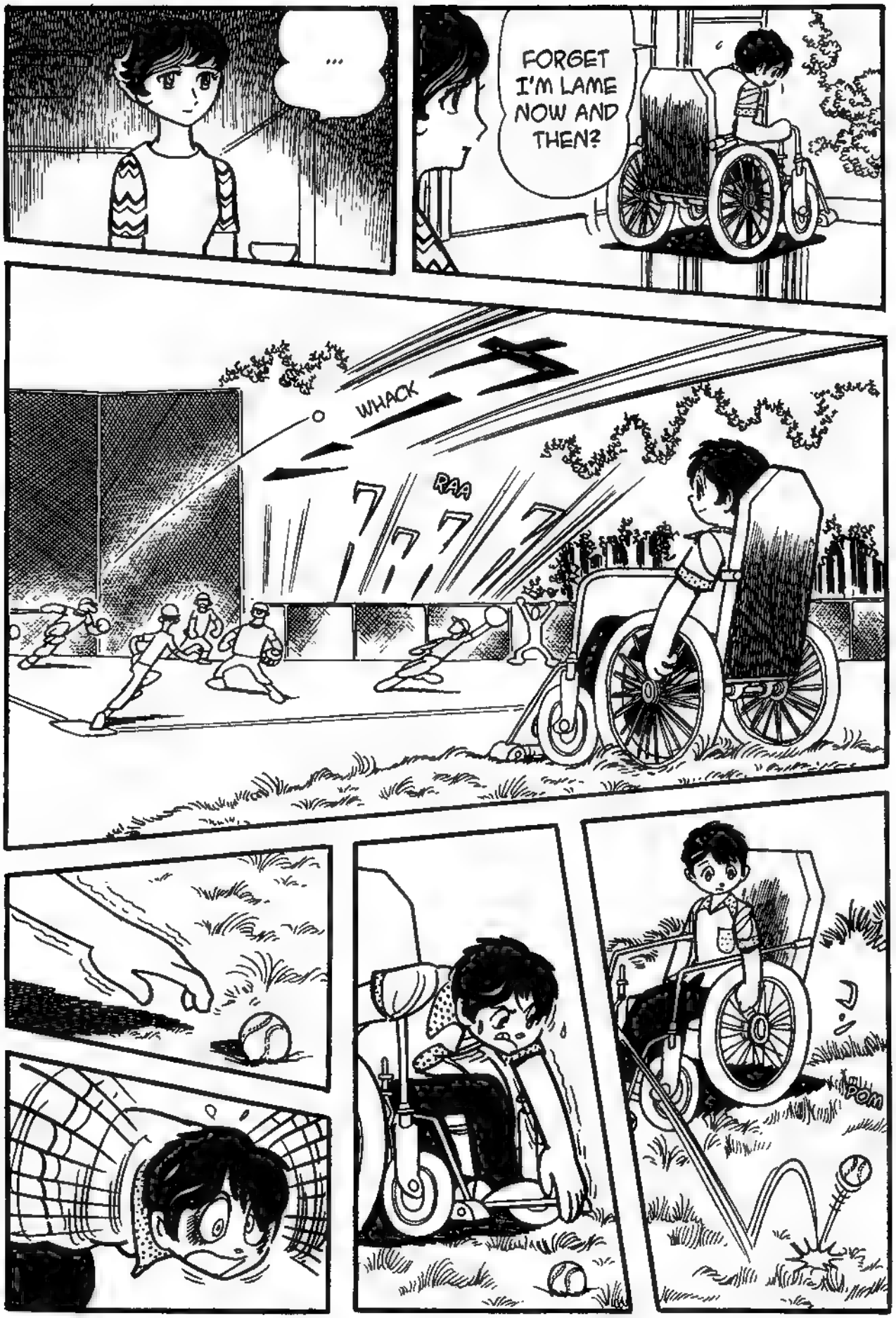

I TOOK THE BODY TO ANOTHER SPOT IN THE FOG.
I ROLLED OVER HIM TO MAKE SURE...
I WAITED THERE TO BUMP HIM.
I KNEW MR. BORING CARRIED THREE MIL FROM HIS ROUNDS.
THEN THE POCKET MONKEY RAN AWAY BEFORE THAT, TO TRY TO SAVE ITS MASTER ...
...
I HURLED IT IN FRONT OF AN ONCOMING CAR AND RAN.
IF YOU STAY HERE YOU'LL MEET THE SAME END.
WANT A RIDE?
YOUR ADOPTIVE DADDY IS GONE. HE AIN'T COMING BACK.


ONE MORNING, WHEN DRY LEAVES SWIRLED IN THE AUTUMN WIND AND FROST WAS SETTING IN,
FOR A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT, PEOPLE DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD NOTICED A POCKET MONKEY ALWAYS CROUCHING IN THE SAME SPOT.
THE STARVED-THIN POCKET MONKEY WAS FOUND DEAD. THEY SAY IT LAY AT THE EXACT SPOT ITS KEEPER HAD BEEN RUN OVER.

CALL SIGN

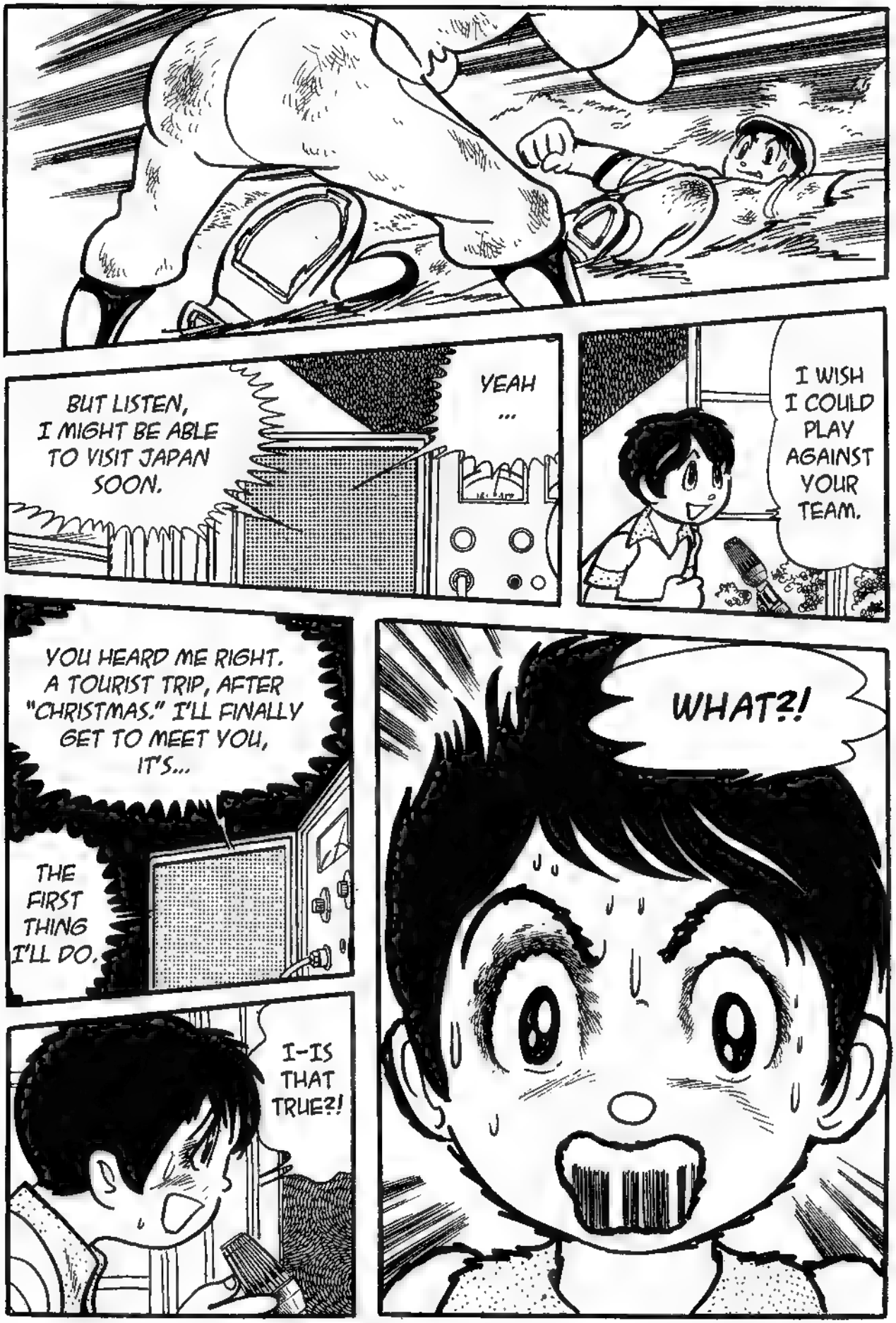

CQ, CQ, THIS IS JA1OSO. CALLING YOU AND STANDING BY.
CQ, CALL FROM JA1OSO OVER, ZL1XXX.
AND YOU, JUN? IT'S BEEN A WHILE. WINTER'S BEGUN.
HOW ARE YOU, TOM?
THIS IS ZL1XXX, HELLO, HELLO?
I HIT TWO HOMERUNS AGAIN! WISH YOU WERE THERE TO SEE.
WHAT'S UP, JUN?
WINTER! HERE IN JAPAN IT'S SUMMER. GETTING HOTTER EACH DAY.
PLAYIN' BALL AS USUAL.


LOOK AT IT AS YOU HEAR MY VOICE!
I SENT YOU THAT PHOTO OF MY FACE.
MORE AND MORE SNOW ON THEM.
YEAH. ALL I CAN SEE HERE ARE MOUNTAINS.
TILL NEXT TIME!
THANKS, I'LL BE SENDING YOU MINE.
HOME-RUNS EVERY TIME...
YOU MUSTN'T LIE TO HIM.
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT BASEBALL.
IT'S SNACK TIME, JUN.
HE'LL NEVER KNOW.
MAY I ...
BUT HE'S IN...
NEW ZEA-LAND!


...
FORGET I'M LAME NOW AND THEN?
WHACK
RAA
POM


DAMMIT ...
AH!
YOU KNOW I'VE ASKED AROUND.
HONEY, CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
TODAY JUN FELL FROM HIS WHEELCHAIR. HE WAS FOUND LYING IN THE GRASS.
HE ISN'T GETTING ANY BETTER!
BUT WE'VE TRIED ALL THAT, AND SHOTS, TOO.
NOT MUCH THEY CAN DO FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY. MASSAGE, EXERCISES, HOT SPRINGS...
SORRY ...
THEY WON'T EVEN ASSURE THAT HE'LL GET BETTER!
POOR JUN!
DOCTORS TELL ME THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW THE CAUSE.


I'VE BEEN TOLD A "BLACK JACK" MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE HIM BUT THAT HE COSTS CRAZY.
THE DOCS SAY SO, NOT ME.
HIS LEGS WILL JUST GROW THINNER AND GO NUMB? THAT'S TOO CRUEL!
THE BALL CAME BACK FROM LEFT FIELD TO SECOND BASE, BUT THE GUY FUMBLED! I RAN, AND RAN, AND RAN! I'M THE FASTEST IN MY CLASS, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY BRAGGING...
TOM, I SMOKED IT AGAIN!
A THREE-BASE HIT. IT FELT GOOD!

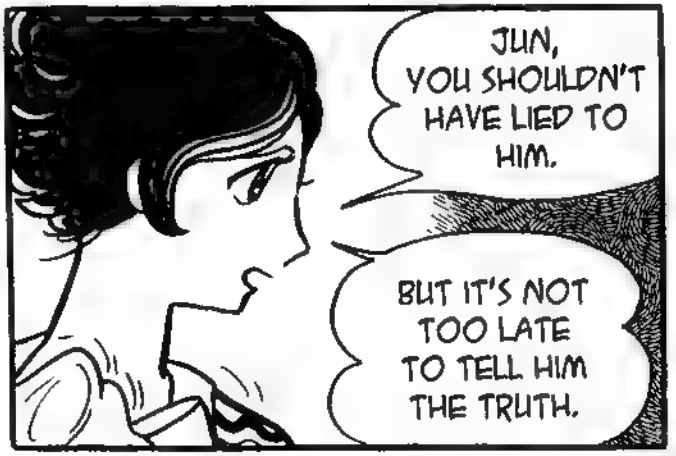

I WISH I COULD PLAY AGAINST YOUR TEAM.
YEAH ...
BUT LISTEN, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT JAPAN SOON.
YOU HEARD ME RIGHT. A TOURIST TRIP, AFTER "CHRISTMAS." I'LL FINALLY GET TO MEET YOU, IT'S...
THE FIRST THING I'LL DO.
I-IS THAT TRUE?!
WHAT?!

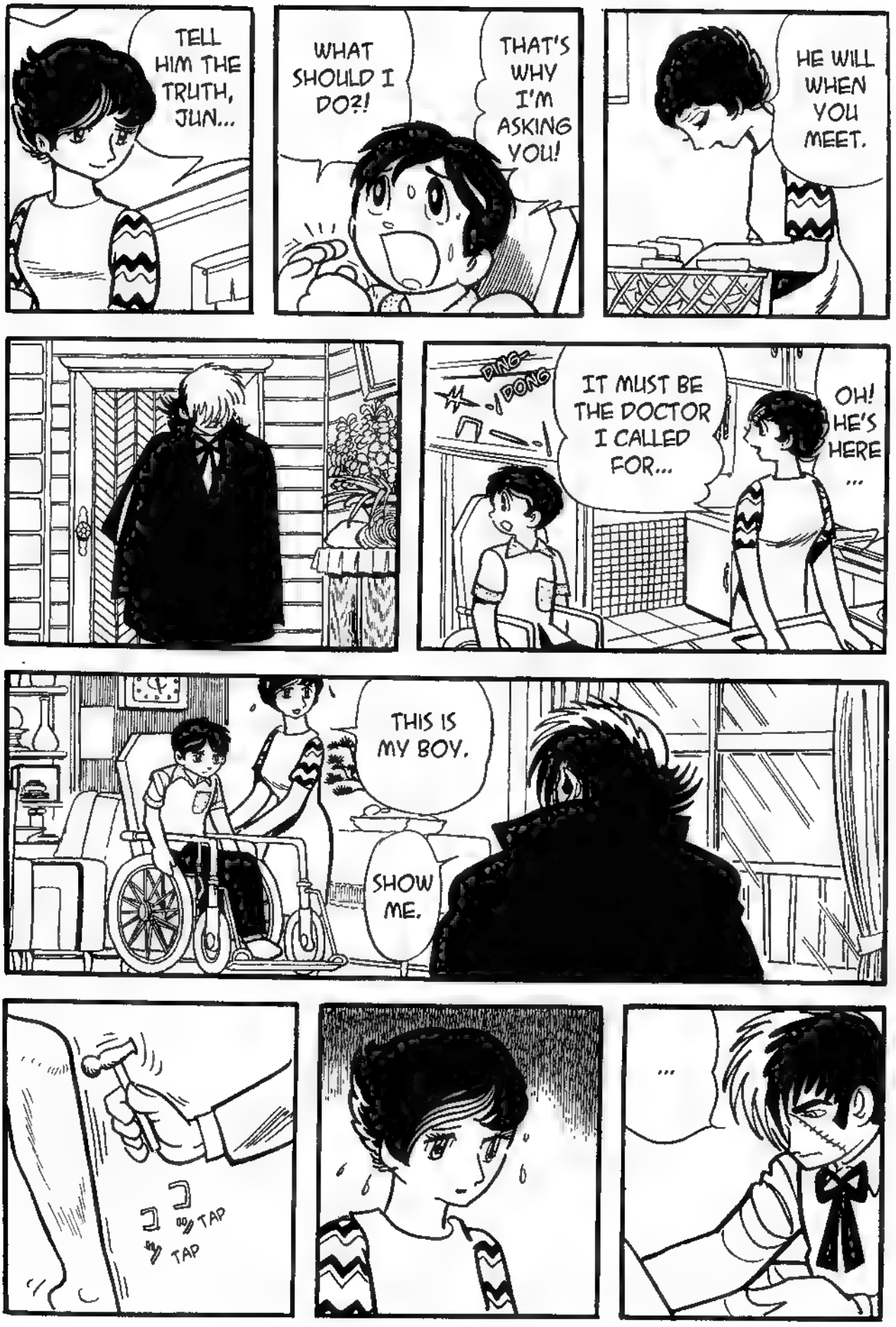

...
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
O-OF COURSE ...
I'LL WATCH YOU PLAY BASEBALL. MAY I STAY AT YOUR PLACE?
YOU BET!

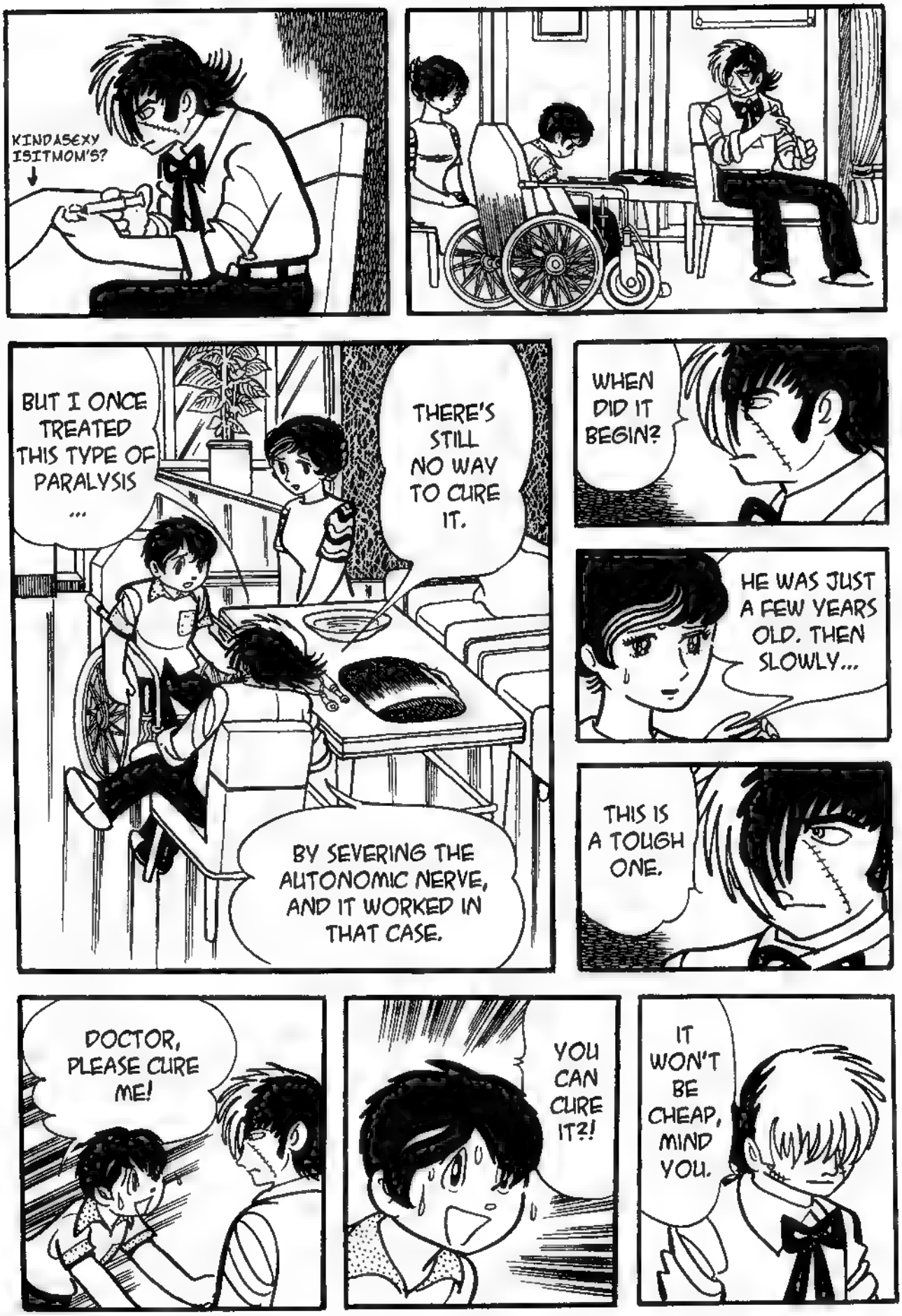

HE'LL SEE WHAT MY LEGS ARE LIKE ...
YOU CAN'T HELP THAT.
MOM, MOM, WHAT SHOULD I DO? TOM IS COMING TO JAPAN FROM NEW ZEALAND ON A TOURIST TRIP!


I DON'T WANT TOM TO KNOW THAT I'M LIKE THIS!
I'D RATHER DIE!
NO


HE'LL KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN LYING TO HIM! HE'LL KNOW I CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL!


JUN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LIED TO HIM.
BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH.

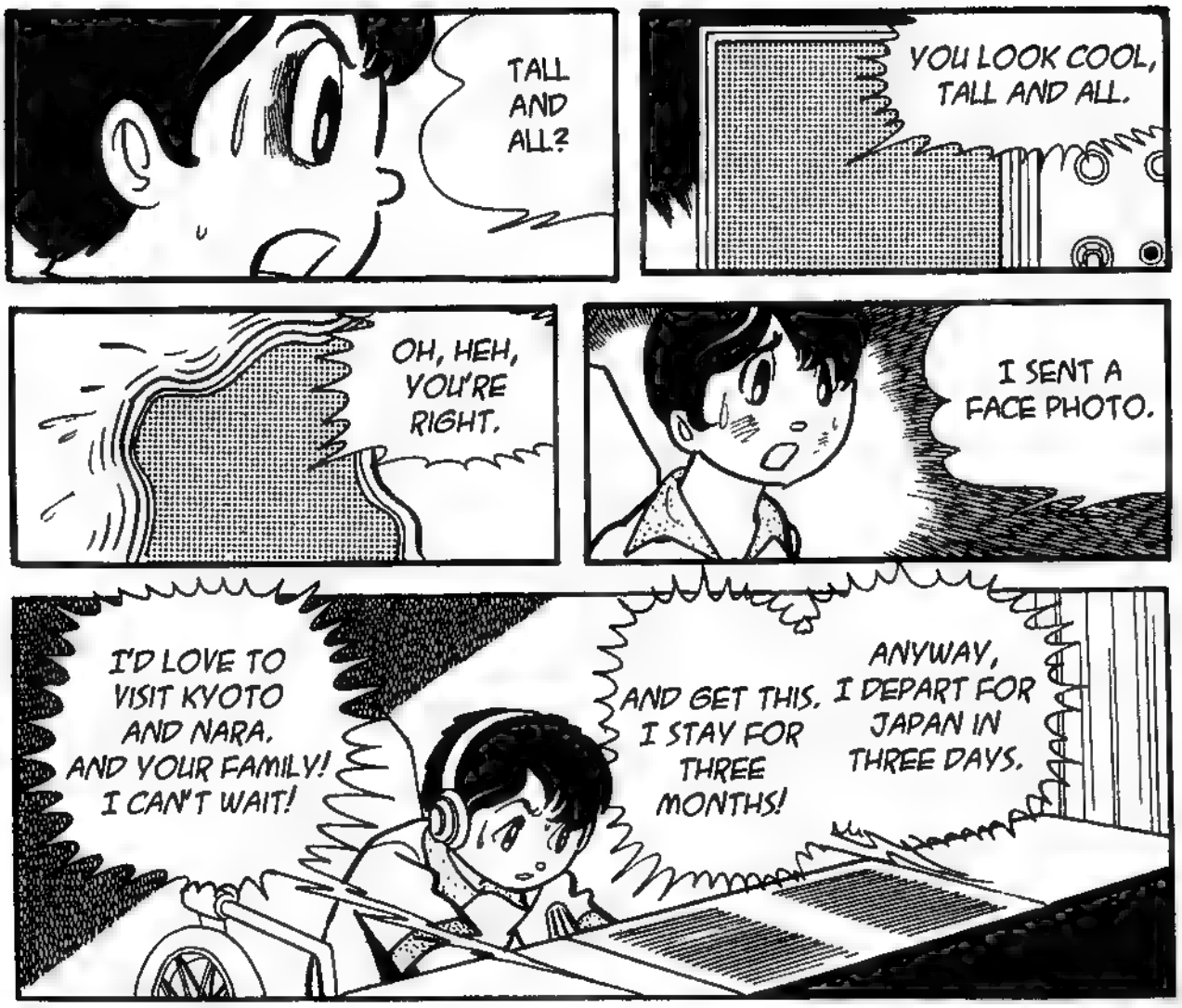

TELL HIM THE TRUTH, JUN...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU!
HE WILL WHEN YOU MEET.
DING-DONG
IT MUST BE THE DOCTOR I CALLED FOR...
OH! HE'S HERE ...
THIS IS MY BOY.
SHOW ME.
TAP
TAP
...

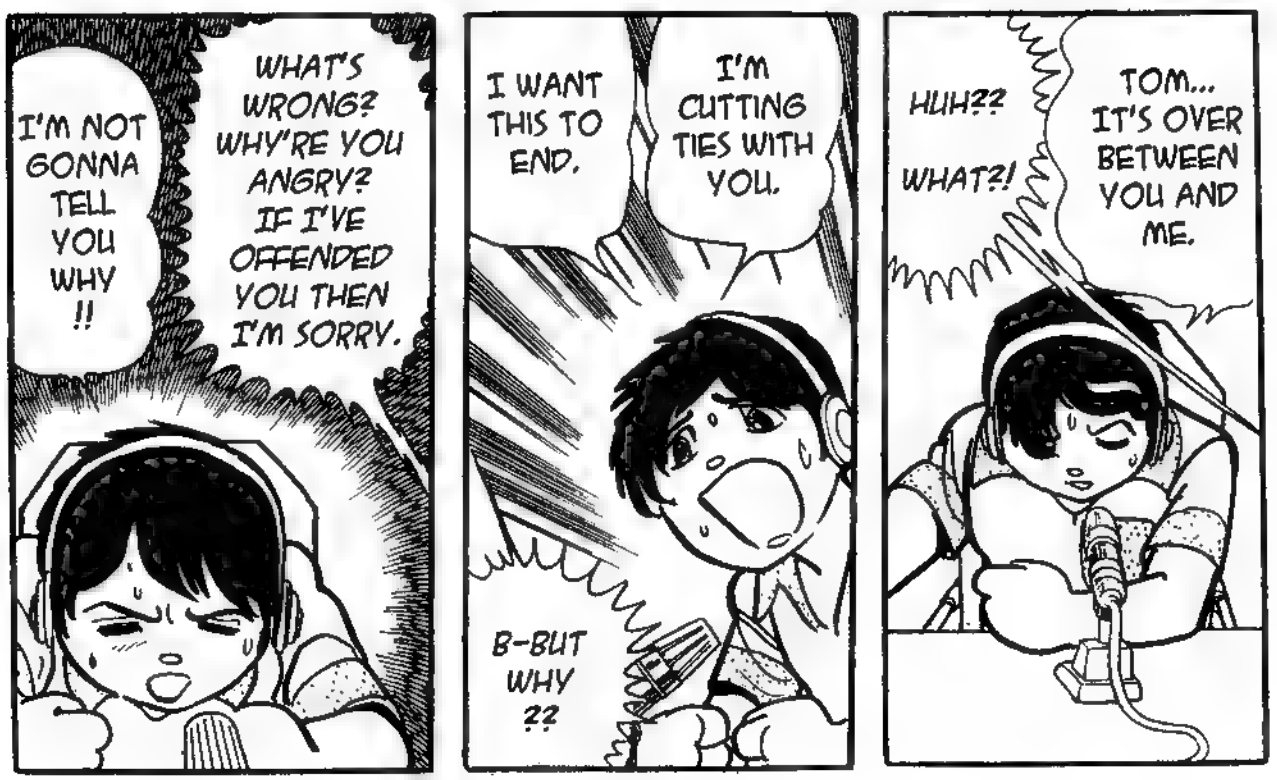

KINDASEXY ISITMOM'S?
BUT I ONCE TREATED THIS TYPE OF PARALYSIS ...
THERE'S STILL NO WAY TO CURE IT.
BY SEVERING THE AUTONOMIC NERVE, AND IT WORKED IN THAT CASE.
WHEN DID IT BEGIN?
HE WAS JUST A FEW YEARS OLD. THEN SLOWLY...
THIS IS A TOUGH ONE.
DOCTOR, PLEASE CURE ME!
YOU CAN CURE IT?!
IT WON'T BE CHEAP, MIND YOU.


THE FEE IS FORTY MILLION YEN.
I'LL WORK FOR YOU ALL MY LIFE!
IF YOU MAKE ME BETTER SO I CAN PLAY BASEBALL,
N-NO, DEAR... NOT EVEN CLOSE.
MOM, DO WE HAVE FORTY MILLION YEN?
F... FORTY ...
MY HUSBAND IS A SALARYMAN. WE CAN'T RAISE SO MUCH.
I KNOW DOCTORS ONLY WANT MONEY!
FINE, THEN DON'T MAKE ME BETTER !!
CURE ONLY RICH PEOPLE!
OK ...
THE USUAL SHOTS AND REGIMEN WILL TAKE TIME, SO BE PATIENT.
THEN FORGET IT.


THAT DOC.
DAMN ...
I WISH I HAD GOOD LEGS!
I WISH MY BODY WERE NORMAL. I DON'T WANT TO MEET TOM.


CQ, CQ, THIS IS JA1OSO. CALLING YOU AND STANDING BY.
SO HE WON'T COME SEE ME...
YES, I'LL PICK A FIGHT WITH HIM. I'LL PISS HIM OFF.
HELLO, IS THIS JUN? WE'VE HAD HEAVY SNOW.
HELLO, CQ, CQ, THIS IS ZL1XXX ...
THE WORLD'S SHINING SILVER AS FAR AS I CAN SEE! BUT YOUR PHOTO DID ARRIVE!


TALL AND ALL?
YOU LOOK COOL, TALL AND ALL.
OH, HEH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I SENT A FACE PHOTO.
I'D LOVE TO VISIT KYOTO AND NARA. AND YOUR FAMILY! I CAN'T WAIT!
AND GET THIS, I STAY FOR THREE MONTHS!
ANYWAY, I DEPART FOR JAPAN IN THREE DAYS.


I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU WHY !!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY'RE YOU ANGRY? IF I'VE OFFENDED YOU THEN I'M SORRY.
I WANT THIS TO END.
I'M CUTTING TIES WITH YOU.
B-BUT WHY ??
HUH??
WHAT?!
TOM... IT'S OVER BETWEEN YOU AND ME.


JUN, I'M GOING TO BE IN JAPAN! MAY I SEE YOU JUST ONCE?
NO. IT'S GOOD-BYE.
I DON'T WANNA! GOODBYE.
I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. PLEASE LISTEN.
PLUNK
YOU'VE LOST SUCH A GOOD FRIEND ...
OH SHUT UP, MOM! IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...


RAA
...
WHO DID THAT?
KTONK
コォーン
...
...
C'MON, PELT ME!
HIT ME IF YOU LIKE.
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
FU
FUZI


THAT DOCTOR WANTS TO SEE YOU!
ARE YOU THERE?
JUN!!
BUT WHY? IS THAT TRUE?
YES. OH, DR. BLACK JACK. YES... WHAT?!
HE JUST SAYS TO COME RIGHT AWAY!
WHATTA PHONY!
100 YEN, DOWN FROM FORTY MILLION?
HE'LL CHARGE ONLY 100 YEN!
BUT WE CAN'T PAY.
HE WANTS TO TREAT YOUR LEGS!
I HAD A CHAT WITH THIS RICH COMPANY PRESIDENT WHO SAID HE'D PUT UP THE MONEY FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE ON AN INCURABLE DISEASE.
SHOCKED?


LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HIM.
WILL YOU ACCEPT THE OFFER?
...
WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, HE WENT BLIND DUE TO AN INJURY.
NERVE DAMAGE.
HE'S STILL YOUNG, BUT HE INHERITED HIS FATHER'S COMPANY.
YOU'D LOST A GOOD FRIEND TO HIDE THE TRUTH.
I TOLD HIM
HE HAD TO PUT IN THAT EXTRA EFFORT GROWING UP. WHEN HE LEARNED ABOUT ME, HE CAME FLYING FROM AFAR FOR MY AID.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT ?!

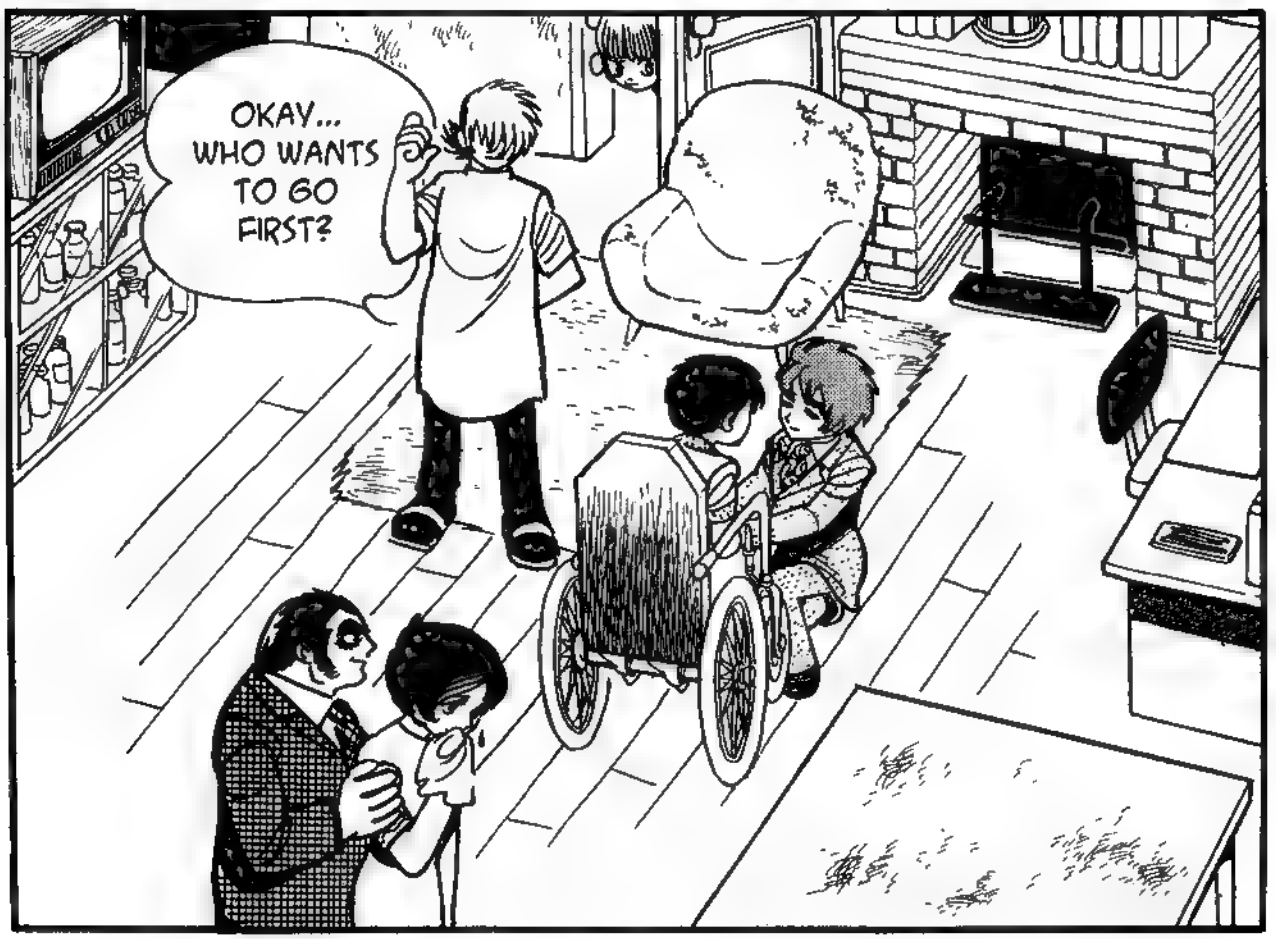

WHY DOES HE CARE ?
BUT WHY ?
HE'S OVER IN THAT ROOM.
YOU SHOULD ASK HIM YOURSELF.
1
COME JOIN US, SIR.
ガチャリ
KNOCK
THAT BIT REALLY MOVED HIM. TO OFFSET YOUR LOSING A FRIEND, HE WANTED YOU TO GET THAT SURGERY.


JUN... DO YOU KNOW HOW SAD YOU MADE ME?
THOMAS MORRISON, PRESIDENT OF NEW ZEALAND WOOL.
T...
IT'S ME, TOM. I ARRIVED IN JAPAN JUST LAST NIGHT.
I WAS PLANNING TO MEET YOU AFTER I UNDERWENT SURGERY...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU ABOUT MY SIGHT.
TOM !!

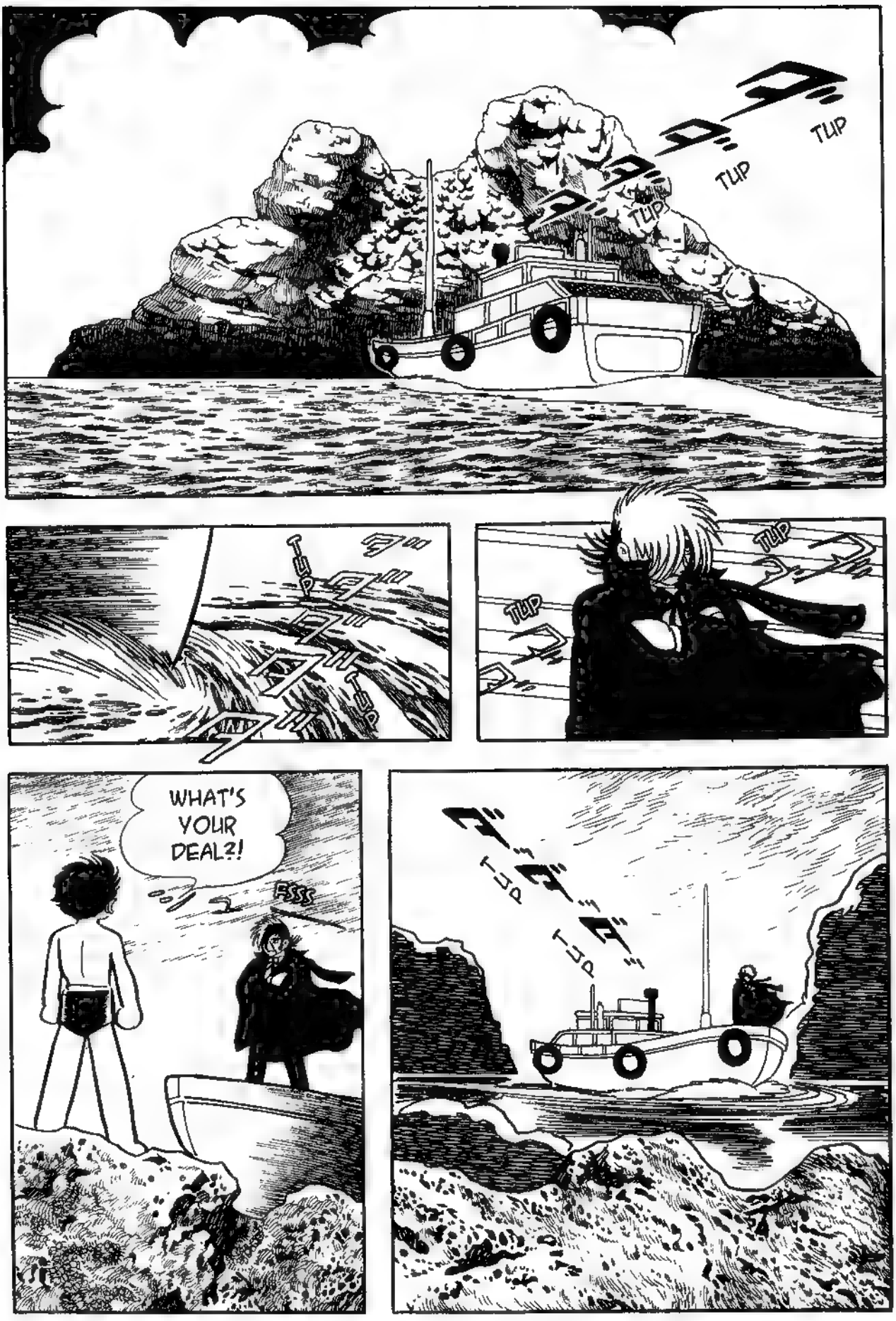

IT WAS WORSE AFTER I BECAME PRESIDENT. TO ALLEVIATE MY SOLITUDE,
I ACQUIRED A HAM RADIO LICENSE AND MADE MY FIRST FRIEND. YOU.
I ALWAYS FELT SO ALONE ...


T-TOM, I'M SORRY ...
YOU'RE A GREAT FRIEND.



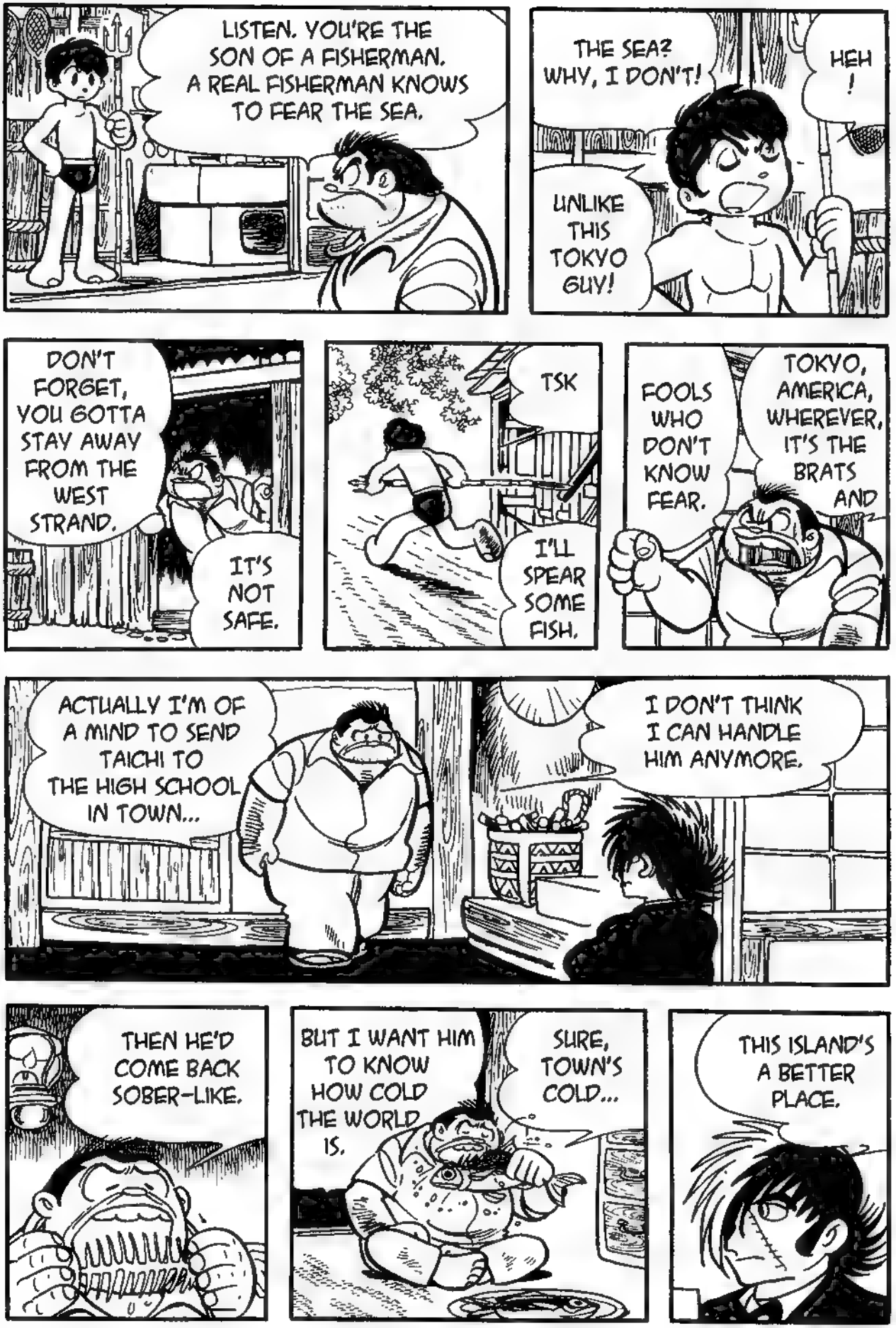

OKAY... WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

FEAR IN BLUE

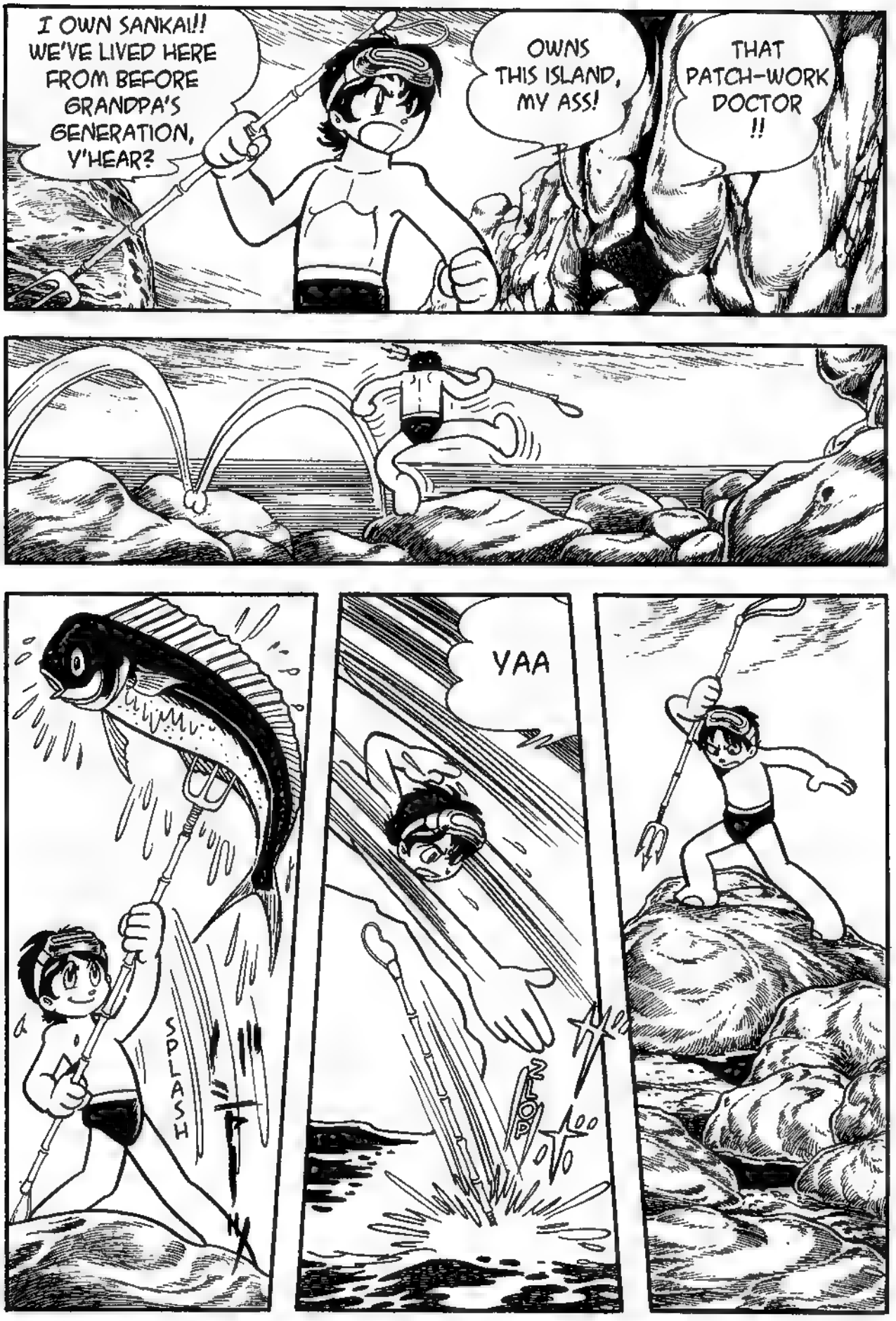

TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?!
FSSS
TUP
TUP


YOU DON'T NEED TO COME!
THE CAPTAIN CAN HANDLE THAT.
I'VE BROUGHT FOOD AND SUNDRIES.
AND THAT SUCKS!
THE MAN OWNS SANKAI ISLAND !
HEY, TAICHI!
DON'T BE RUDE...
HA, POSER.
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'D LIKE TO STAY THE NIGHT. I WANT TO TAKE IN THE SUNSET AND SUNRISE.
TAI-CHI!
THANK YOU.
RECEIPTS LETTERS ...
AT OUR SORRY HOUSE.
PLEASE REST

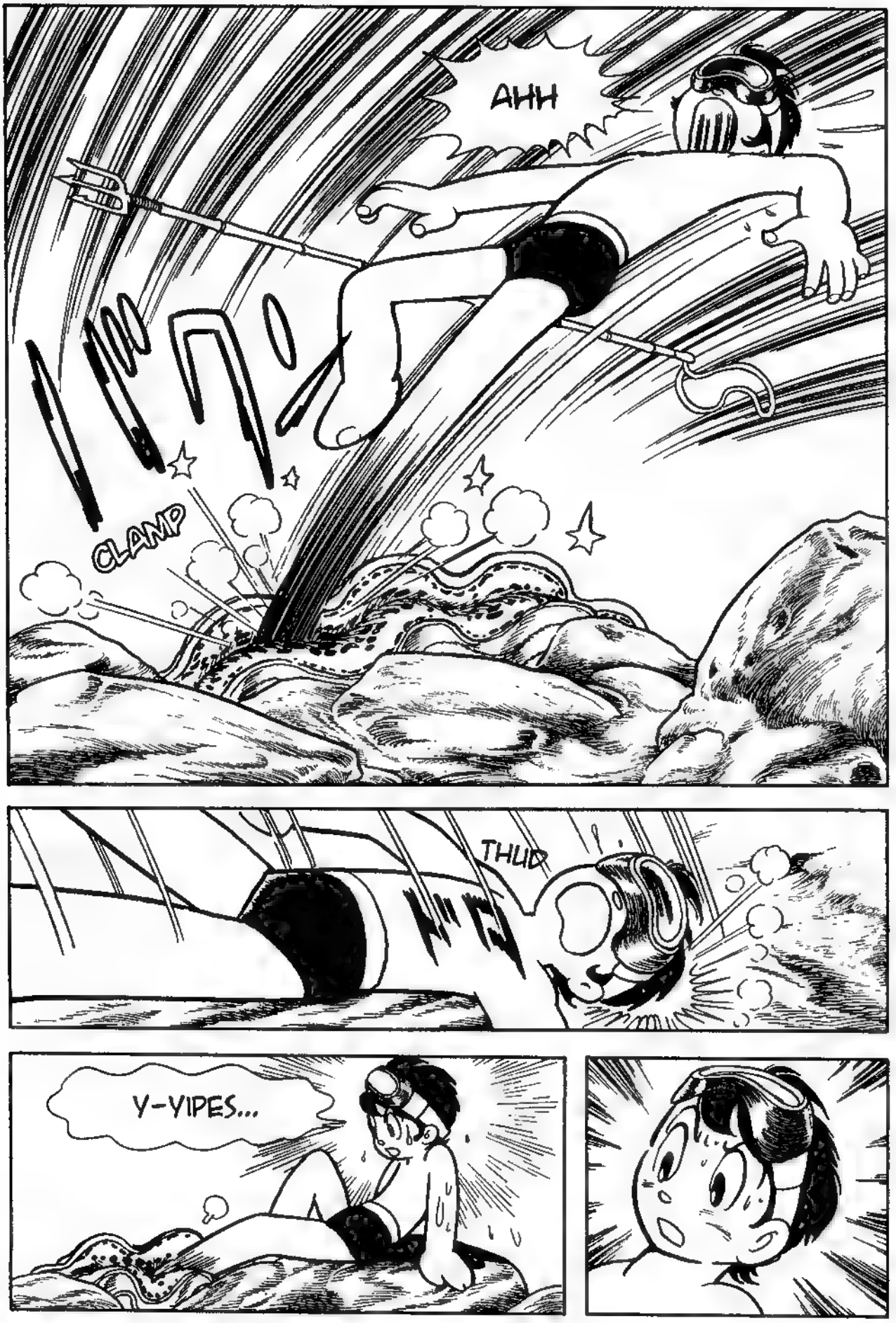

MY WIFE'S BEEN DEAD TWO WHOLE YEARS.
BUT PITY MY SON.
GOT USED TO IT.
I MADE SOME TEA ...
DO YOU MISS HAVING A WOMAN AROUND?
NAH... STILL A KID.
REALLY? HE LOOKS PRETTY TOUGH.
I'M NO BRAT!
DAD !!
JUST A BRAT WHO DOESN'T KNOW FEAR ...
HE SEES FIT TO TALK BIG BUT HE HASN'T SEEN IT ALL.
YOU DON'T KNOW TO FEAR THE SEA.
I'M NOT A BRAT!
YES YOU ARE.


LISTEN. YOU'RE THE SON OF A FISHERMAN. A REAL FISHERMAN KNOWS TO FEAR THE SEA.
THE SEA? WHY, I DON'T!
HEH !
UNLIKE THIS TOKYO GUY!
DON'T FORGET, YOU GOTTA STAY AWAY FROM THE WEST STRAND.
IT'S NOT SAFE.
TSK
I'LL SPEAR SOME FISH.
FOOLS WHO DON'T KNOW FEAR.
TOKYO, AMERICA, WHEREVER, IT'S THE BRATS AND
ACTUALLY I'M OF A MIND TO SEND TAICHI TO THE HIGH SCHOOL IN TOWN...
I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE HIM ANYMORE.
THEN HE'D COME BACK SOBER-LIKE.
BUT I WANT HIM TO KNOW HOW COLD THE WORLD IS.
SURE, TOWN'S COLD...
THIS ISLAND'S A BETTER PLACE.

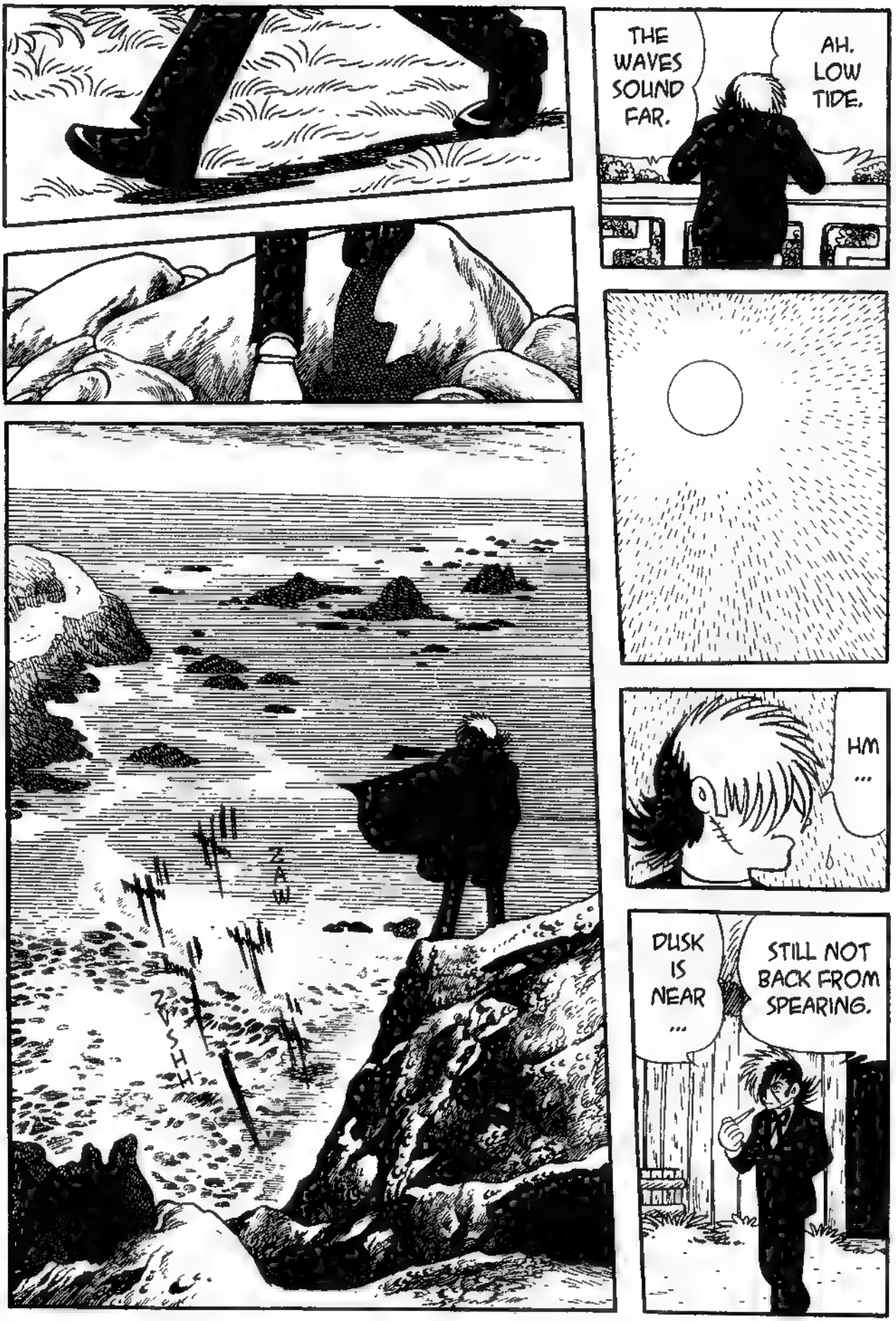

COME PICK UP THE FORMS. WHICH I WILL THIS DAY.
SO I WROTE TO TOWN. THE REPLY YOU BROUGHT SAYS TO...
SO THERE IT IS.
HEH... FISHERMEN ARE ALWAYS ALONE OUT AT SEA.
BUT YOU'D BE ALL ALONE HERE.

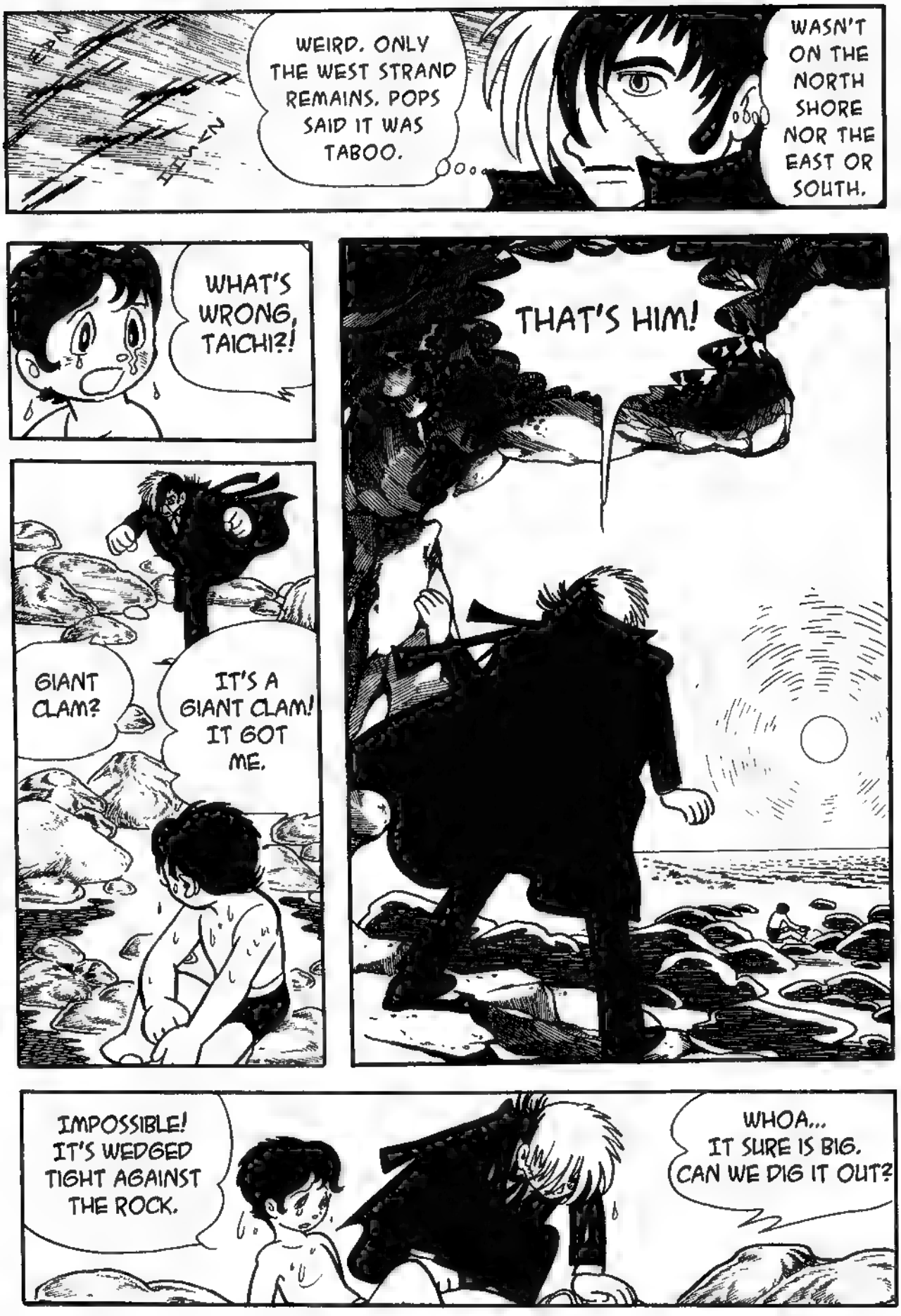

I OWN SANKAI!! WE'VE LIVED HERE FROM BEFORE GRANDPA'S GENERATION, Y'HEAR?
OWNS THIS ISLAND, MY ASS!
THAT PATCH-WORK DOCTOR !!
SPLASH
YAA
DOPP


THERE!
HOW'S THAT!
I'M ON A ROLL TODAY.
THE TIDE'S OUT, TOO.

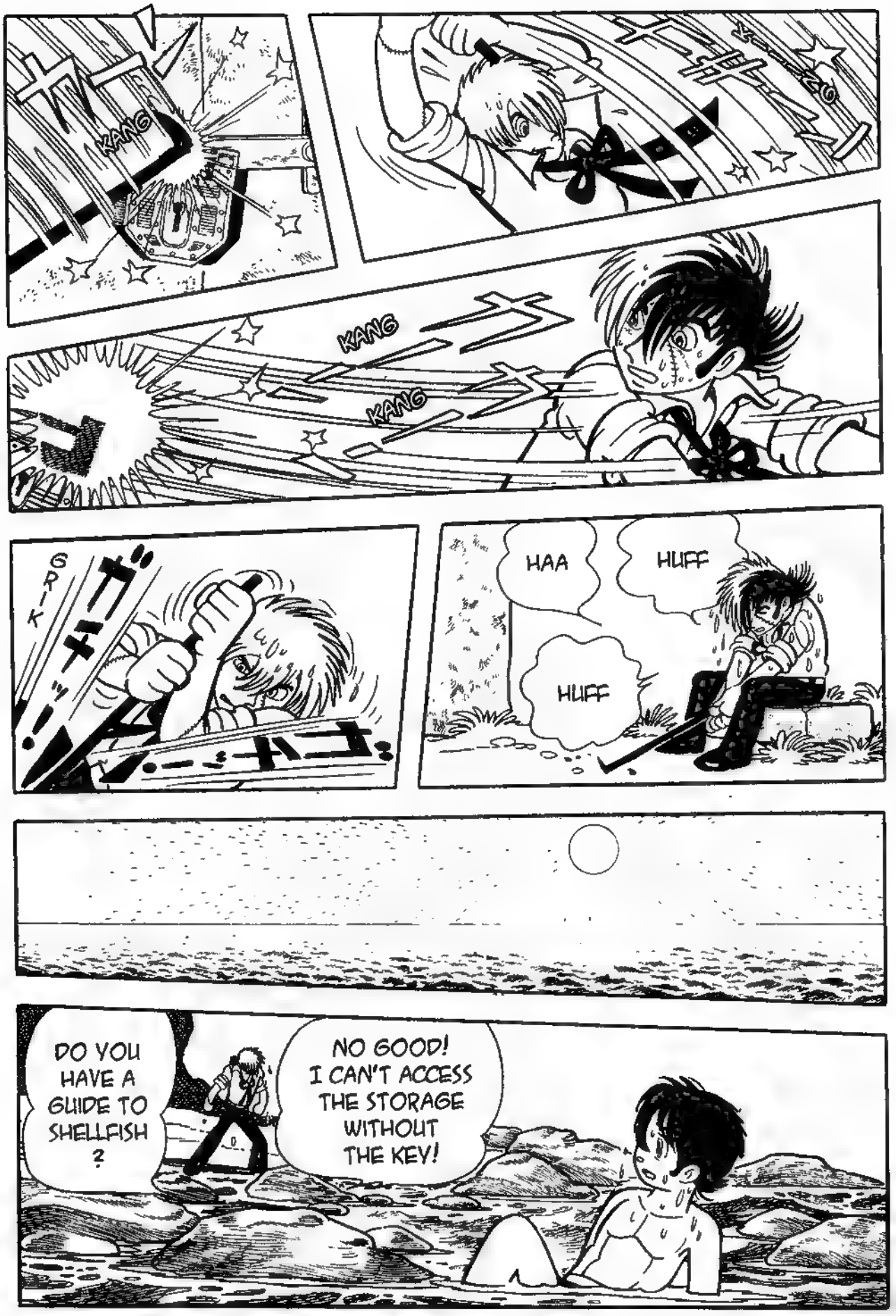

AHH
CLAMP
THUD
Y-YIPES...


IT'S JUST THE NEXT ISLAND. I'LL BE BACK BY NIGHTFALL.
THANKS, I'LL USE THAT BOAT THEN...
SMILE!
WHEN HE COMES BACK, TELL HIM TO COOK RICE.
IT'S QUIET... I WONDER WHY IT'S SO QUIET.
...
HUSH

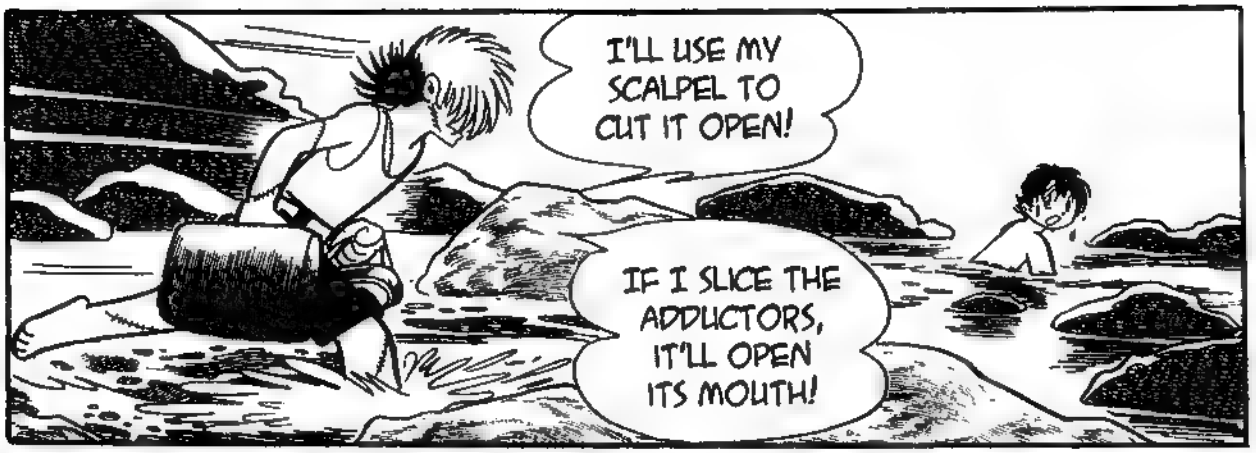

THE WAVES SOUND FAR.
AH. LOW TIDE.
ZAW
SHH
HM ...
DUSK IS NEAR ...
STILL NOT BACK FROM SPEARING.


WEIRD. ONLY THE WEST STRAND REMAINS. POPS SAID IT WAS TABOO.
WASN'T ON THE NORTH SHORE NOR THE EAST OR SOUTH.
WHAT'S WRONG, TAICHI?!
THAT'S HIM!
GIANT CLAM?
IT'S A GIANT CLAM! IT GOT ME.
IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S WEDGED TIGHT AGAINST THE ROCK.
WHOA... IT SURE IS BIG. CAN WE DIG IT OUT?

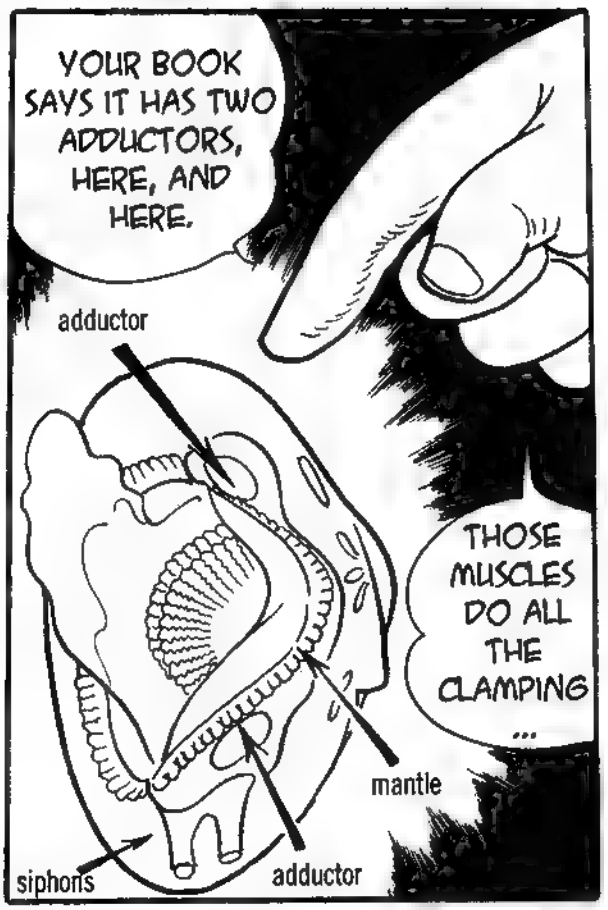

WHAT?! HOW LONG BEFORE HIGH TIDE?
THIS BEATS AN AMATEUR. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOUR DAD.
BUT THE TIDE'S BEEN RISING!
IN THE STORE ROOM.
I'LL BE BACK.
YOU'D DROWN! GOT ANY OXYGEN TANKS AND MASKS?
DUNNO... TWO HOURS? IT'LL BE TWICE MY HEIGHT.
A PADLOCK, CRAP!! POPS MUST HAVE LOCKED UP!
THERE
HAA
HAA
HUFF


KANG
KANG
KANG
GRIK
HAA
HUFF
HUFF
DO YOU HAVE A GUIDE TO SHELLFISH ?
NO GOOD! I CAN'T ACCESS THE STORAGE WITHOUT THE KEY!


DAD ...!
I'M GONNA DIE... THE SEA SLOWLY RISING ABOVE MY NOSE...
WHAT D'YOU WANT WITH IT?
YES, IN MY BOOK CASE!
IT'LL SERVE AS A STOP.
NO!
DON'T HURT MY LEG!
ARE YOU GONNA USE THAT STAND TO SMASH THE CLAM?
BUT I CAN REACH IN NOW.
THAT WON'T FREE MY FOOT !!
AT LEAST THE CLAM WON'T BE PRESSING TIGHTER.
OKAY, IT'S LODGED.
GRIP


I'LL USE MY SCALPEL TO CUT IT OPEN!
IF I SLICE THE ADDUCTORS, IT'LL OPEN ITS MOUTH!


KNOWING WHERE THEY ARE, I CAN SLICE BY FEEL.


YOUR BOOK SAYS IT HAS TWO ADDUCTORS, HERE, AND HERE.
adductor
THOSE MUSCLES DO ALL THE CLAMPING ...
mantle
siphons
adductor


YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP.
IF THAT DOESN'T DO IT ...

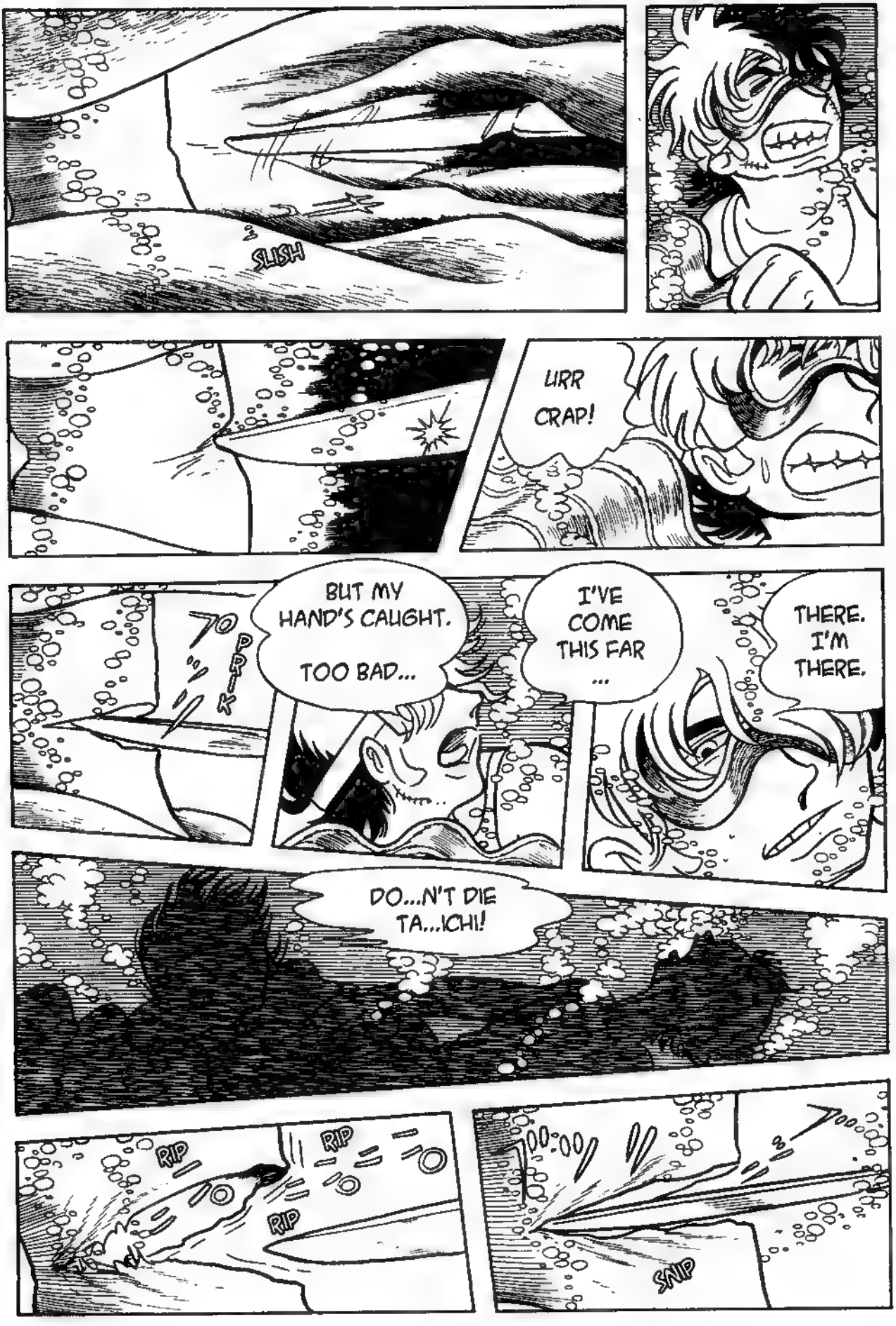

IF MY HAND GETS CAUGHT.

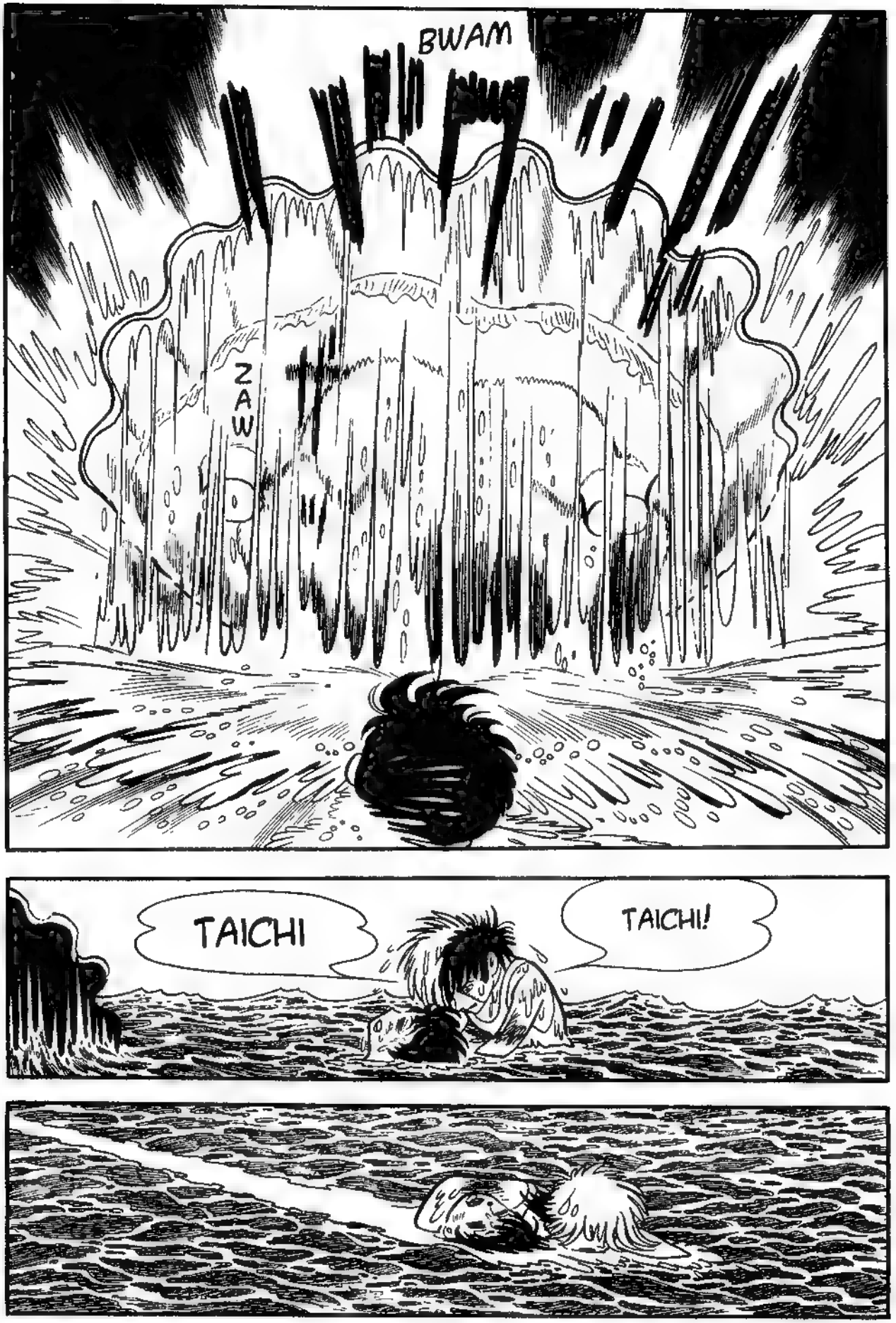

I'D DROWN TOO...


FIRST, THE MANTLE.
ガチッ!!
GRIP
ゴボ
GOP
STAB
ZAWWW
OWWW!
SUCH FORCE...
ハンパ
CUT-TING PAIN'S THE WORD.
IT'S TRYING FOR ALL LIFE TO CLOSE SHUT.


ZAWW
ZAWW
HOW'S IT GOING?
HARD TO SAY.
ROOOK
ROOOK
HOLD, MY STAND, HOLD!
SNAP
THE WATER'S UP TO MY MOUTH.
DOC... I'M A GONER.
ZAWW
COURAGE
I'M GETTING CLOSE TO THE ADDUCTOR MUSCLES!

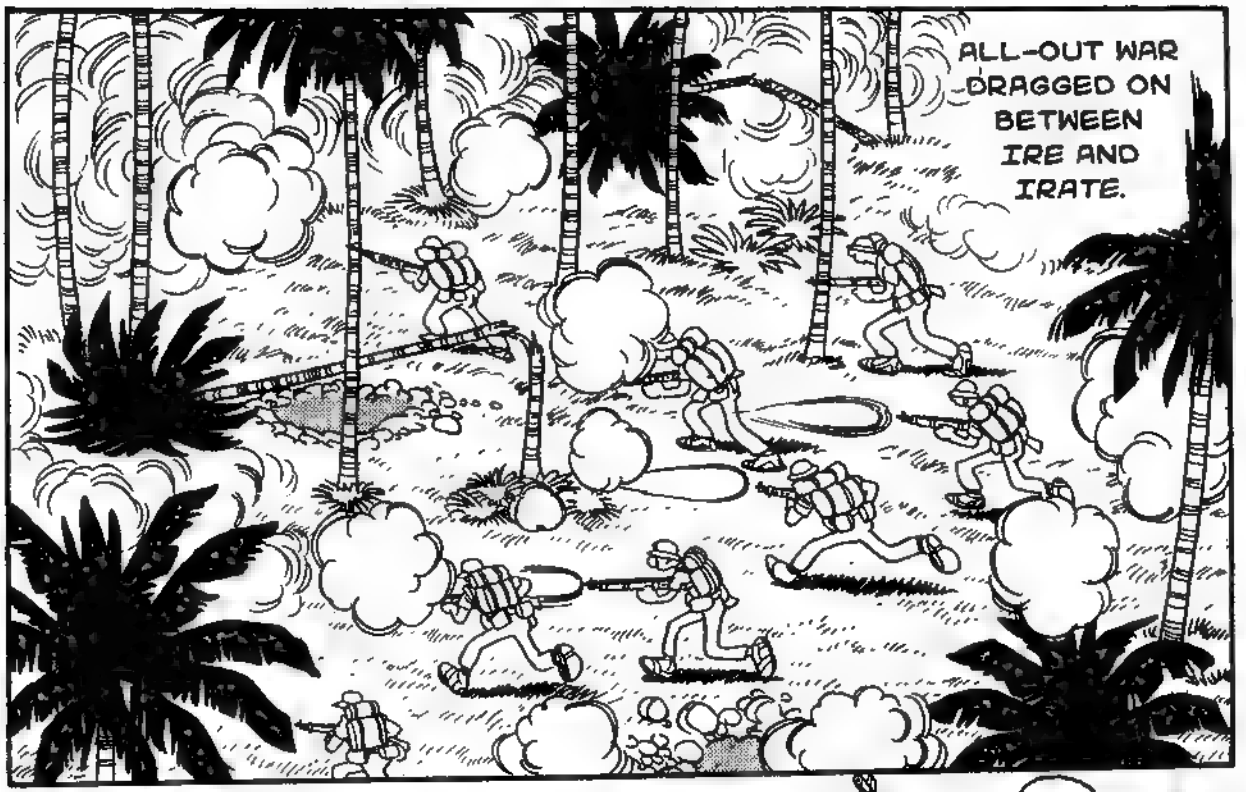

THIS! THIS FEEL HAS GOT TO BE...
SLISH
THE ADDUC-TOR!
THIS DECIDES IT...
OKAY, ONE DOWN. ONE MORE TO GO.
AAAH!
ARRRGH!
SQUELCH
SPLAT

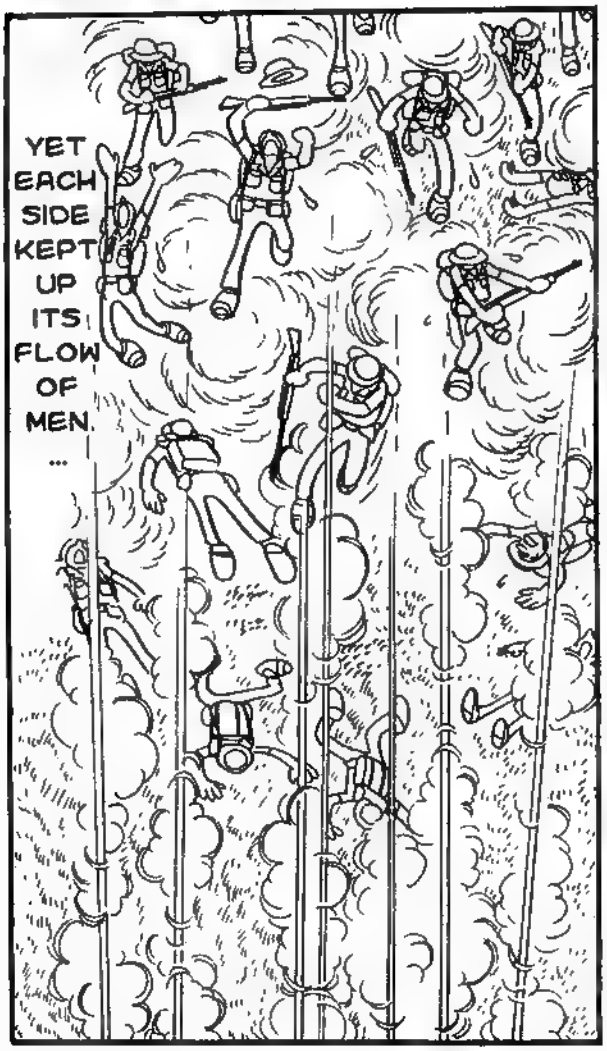

SLISH
URR
CRAP!
PRI—K
BUT MY HAND'S CAUGHT.
TOO BAD...
I'VE COME THIS FAR ...
THERE. I'M THERE.
DO...N'T DIE TA...ICHI!
RIP
RIP
RIP
SNIP


BWAM
ZAWD
TAICHI
TAICHI!

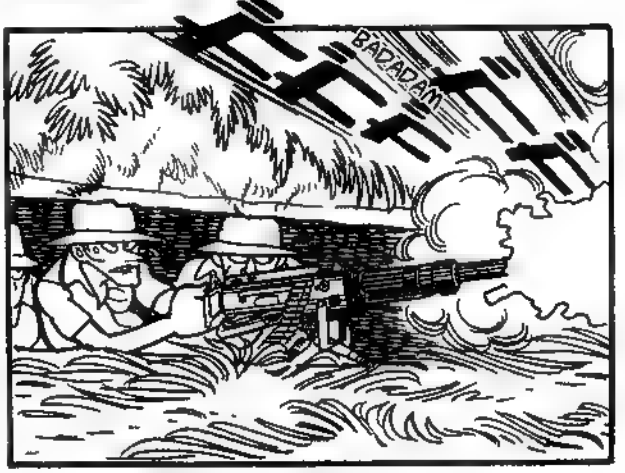

DAD, I WAS SO SCARED... I REALLY THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE!
NOPE ...
HATE THE SEA NOW?
TAICHI, YOU'VE BECOME A MAN...
AH.
HE CAN STAY.

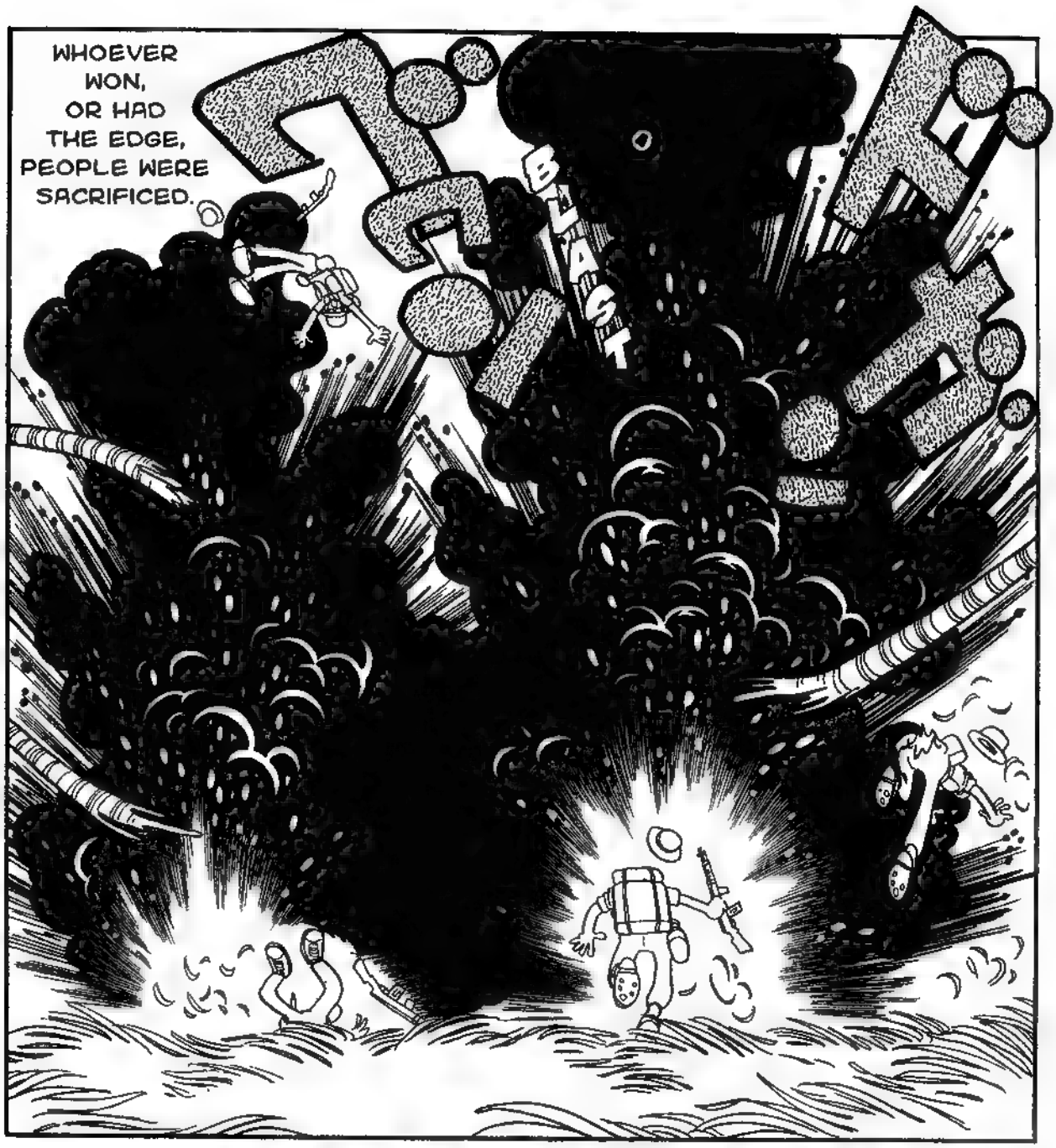
THE WAR NEVER ENDS

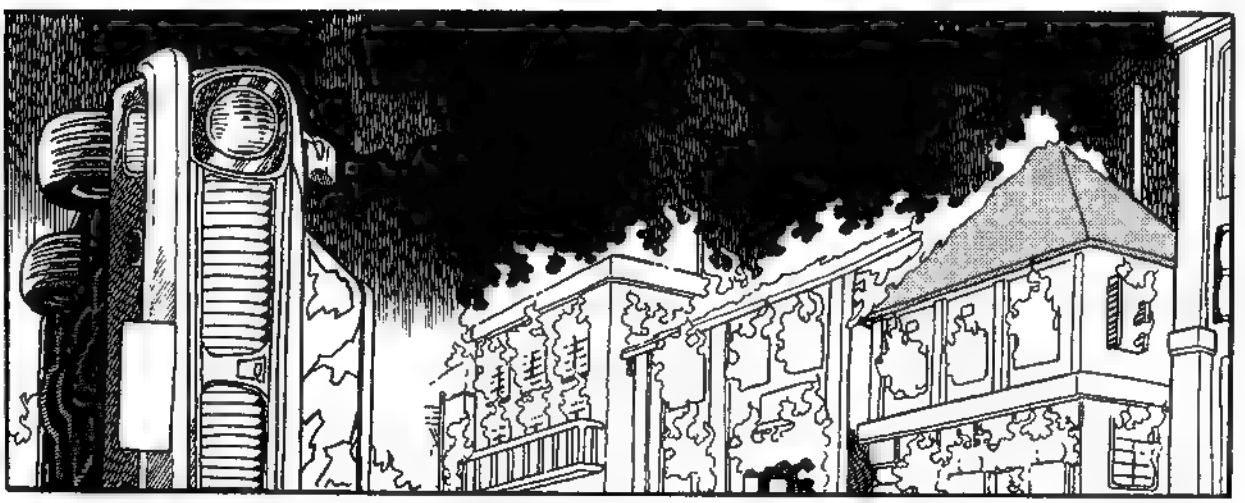

ALL-OUT WAR DRAGGED ON BETWEEN IRE AND IRATE.

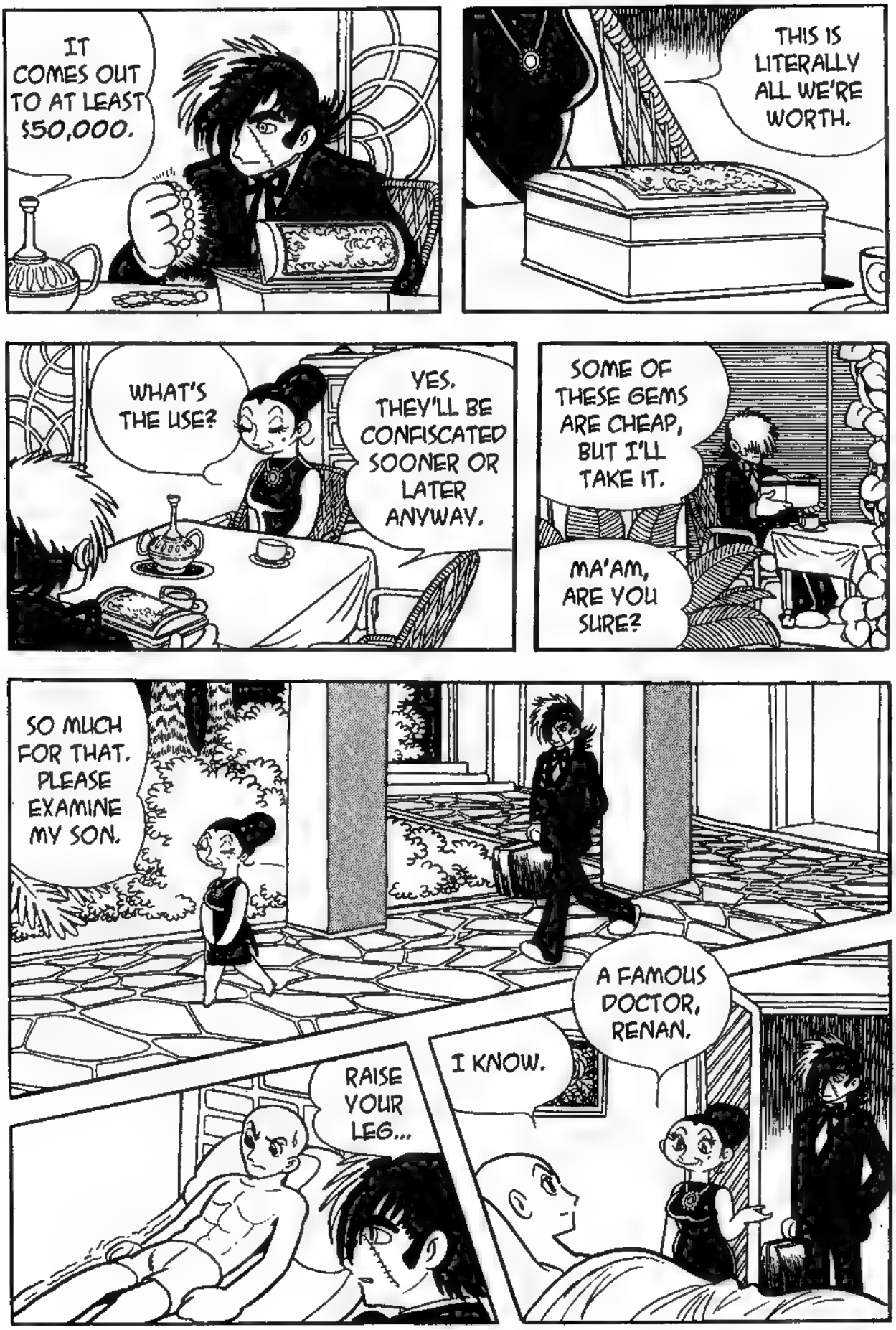

YET EACH SIDE KEPT UP ITS FLOW OF MEN. ...


HUNDREDS DIED EACH DAY.


BADADAM


WHOEVER WON, OR HAD THE EDGE, PEOPLE WERE SACRIFICED.
FIRE BLAST




IT COMES OUT TO AT LEAST $50,000.
THIS IS LITERALLY ALL WE'RE WORTH.
WHAT'S THE USE?
YES. THEY'LL BE CONFISCATED SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.
SOME OF THESE GEMS ARE CHEAP, BUT I'LL TAKE IT.
MA'AM, ARE YOU SURE?
SO MUCH FOR THAT. PLEASE EXAMINE MY SON.
A FAMOUS DOCTOR, RENAN.
I KNOW.
RAISE YOUR LEG...

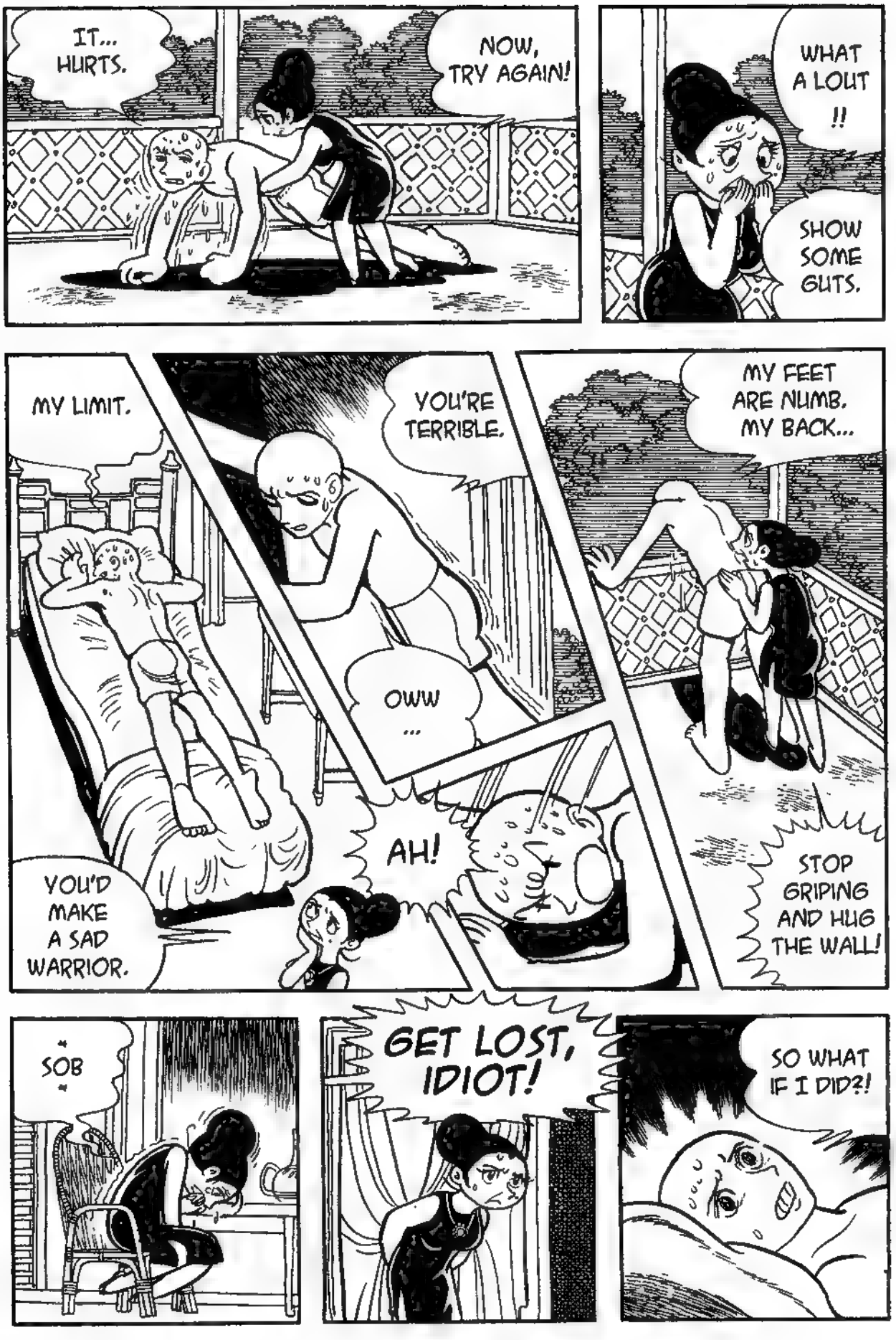

IT WON'T BEND?
OWW ...
NOW BEND IT.
I CAN'T.
CAN YOU BEND YOUR BACK?
OW! OWW... IT HURTS!! MY BACK...
HUP
WILL H-HE LIVE?
HE'S IN VERY BAD SHAPE.
HE MAY NEVER STAND AGAIN.
MA'AM ...
DOES IT TICKLE?

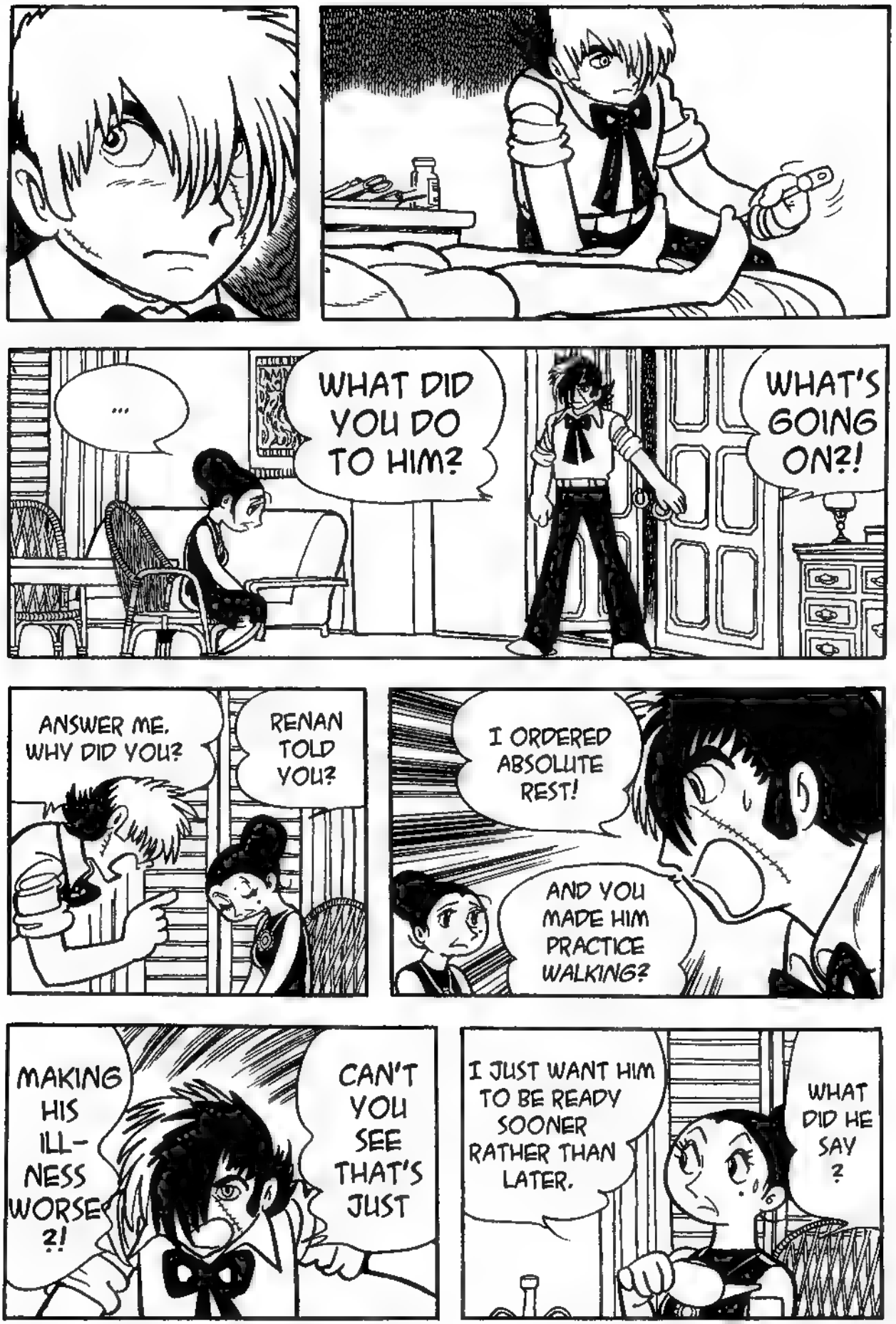

THIS TOWN'S JUST 20 KM FROM THE FRONT, YES?
DOCTOR, IS MY BOY REALLY GOING TO BE FINE?
YOUR SON SUFFERS FROM HERNIA OF AN INTER-VERTEBRAL DISK. IT'S BEEN UNATTENDED FOR TOO LONG. HE NEEDS TO BE HOSPITALIZED FOR A FULL OPERATION.
THE HOSPITALS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH VETS. THEY DON'T CARE TO SEE CIVILIANS.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I HOPE HE RECOVERS SOON, SO I CAN SEND HIM OFF TO WAR FOR OUR NATION'S SAKE.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!!
MY BUSINESS IS CURING PEOPLE!
MY SON IS BEDRIDDEN, RATHER THAN FIGHTING.
I CAN'T FACE PEOPLE.
I'M ASHAMED AS A MOTHER.

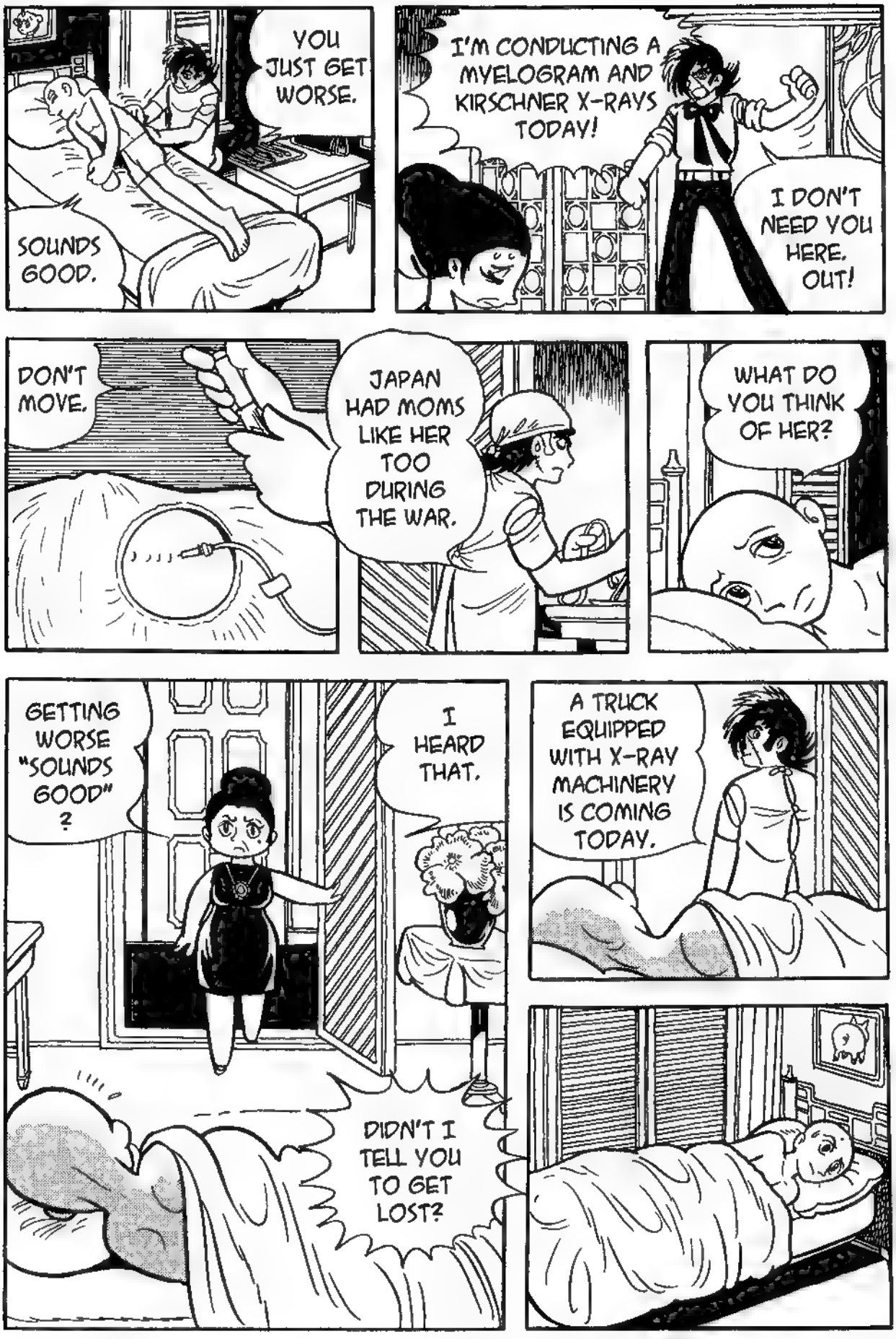

DOCTOR, I HAVE ... I HAVE A REASON...
YOU'RE SAYING HE'LL DIE IF I CURE HIM!
SEND HIM OFF TO WAR?
WHAT AM I HERE FOR?
LET ME CURE HIM ASAP SO YOU CAN SEND HIM TO HIS DEATH!
EVER SINCE, I'VE WISHED TO SEND OFF MY SON TO WAR AS A BRAVE SOLDIER.
MY HUSBAND, A SCHOLAR, OPPOSED THE WAR AND WAS ARRESTED AND PUT TO DEATH.
HAH, IS THAT SO?
YOU MAY BE A GOOD CITI-ZEN,
BUT YOU SUCK AS A MOM!
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK

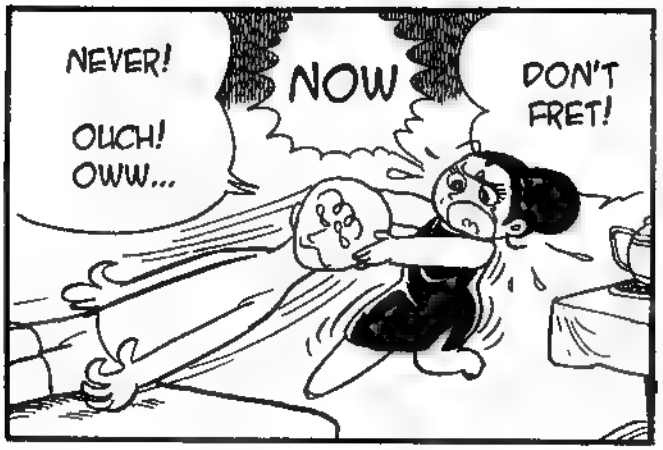

THEY LOOK PRETTY YOUNG.
WE KEEP CONSCIPT-ING THEM YOUNGER.
WE'RE SHORT ON MEN.
WITHOUT PEACE ...
WE'LL LOSE ALL OUR YOUNG SOON.
DON'T ASK ME!
ACK ...
YOU HATE THE WAR?
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
SIMPLETONS!


WHILE YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE ALL OUT FIGHTING,
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
EXERCISE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AND RECOVER SOON!
YES, LIKE THAT!
NGG...
...
THE SHAME !!
YOU JUST LIE HERE ...
STAND AND WALK!
NOW STAND UP!
OWW
AH!


IT... HURTS.
NOW, TRY AGAIN!
WHAT A LOUT !!
SHOW SOME GUTS.
MY LIMIT.
YOU'RE TERRIBLE.
MY FEET ARE NUMB. MY BACK...
OWW ...
AH!
YOU'D MAKE A SAD WARRIOR.
STOP GRIPING AND HUG THE WALL!
SOB
GET LOST, IDIOT!
SO WHAT IF I DID?!

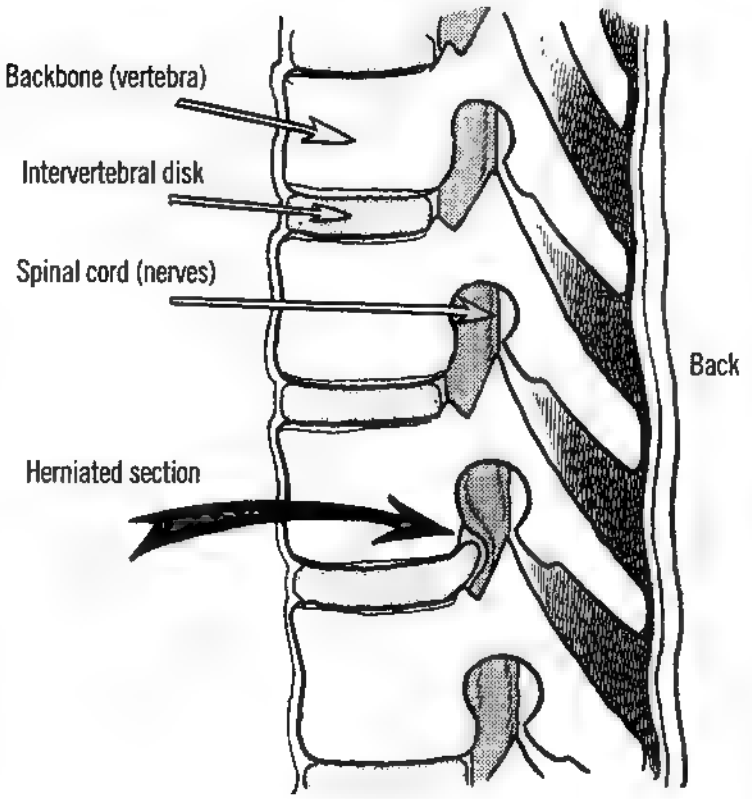

...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ANSWER ME. WHY DID YOU?
RENAN TOLD YOU?
I ORDERED ABSOLUTE REST!
AND YOU MADE HIM PRACTICE WALKING?
MAKING HIS ILL-NESS WORSE?!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT'S JUST
I JUST WANT HIM TO BE READY SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
WHAT DID HE SAY?

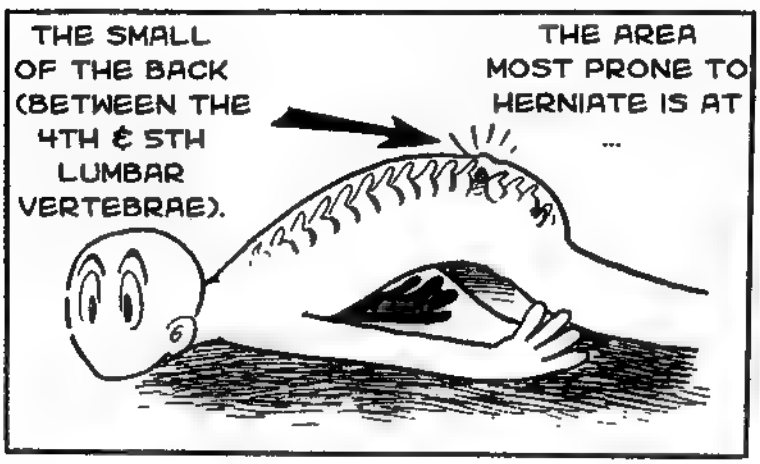

YOU JUST GET WORSE.
SOUNDS GOOD.
I'M CONDUCTING A MYELOGRAM AND KIRSCHNER X-RAYS TODAY!
I DON'T NEED YOU HERE. OUT!
DON'T MOVE.
JAPAN HAD MOMS LIKE HER TOO DURING THE WAR.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?
GETTING WORSE "SOUNDS GOOD" ?
I HEARD THAT.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GET LOST?
A TRUCK EQUIPPED WITH X-RAY MACHINERY IS COMING TODAY.





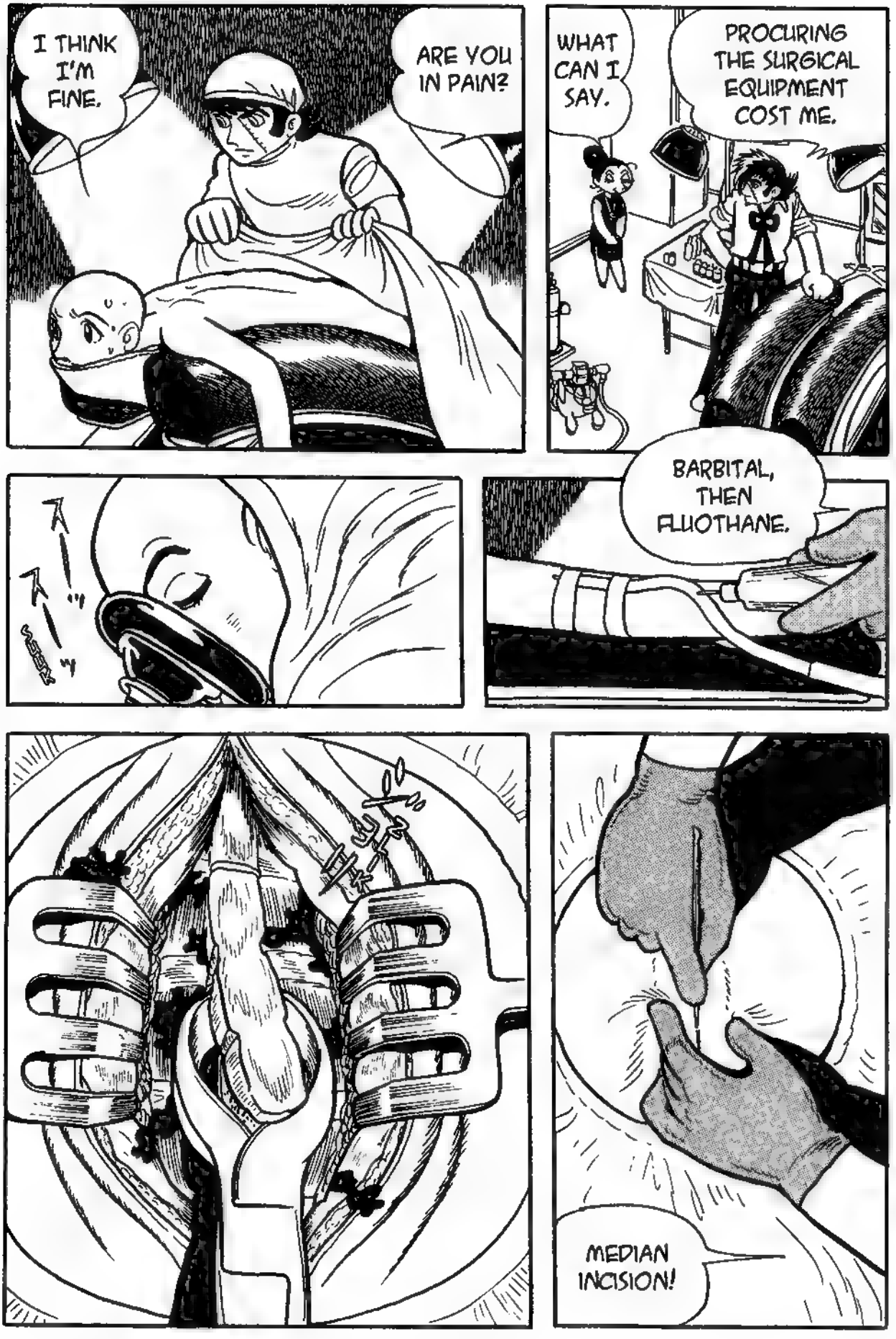
IN INTERVERTEBRAL HERNIATION, WHERE A BONE SECTION JUTS OUT INTO THE SPINAL NERVES, THE UNWANTED PRESSURE CAUSES LOWER MOTOR DYSFUNCTION AND NUMBNESS OF THE LEGS. A YOUNG PERSON'S BACK "GIVING OUT" MAY BE INDICATIVE OF AN EARLY STAGE OF THIS ILLNESS.

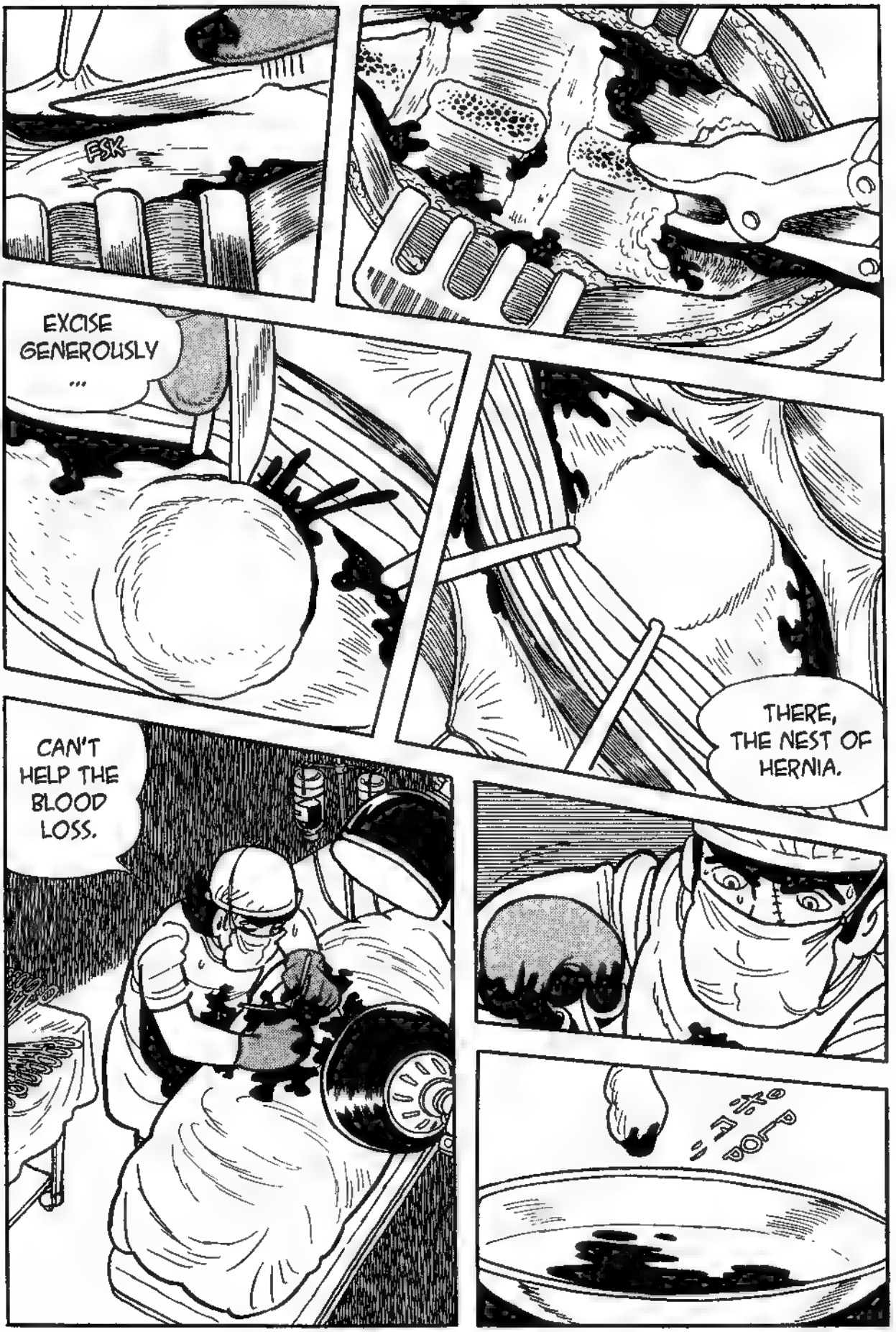


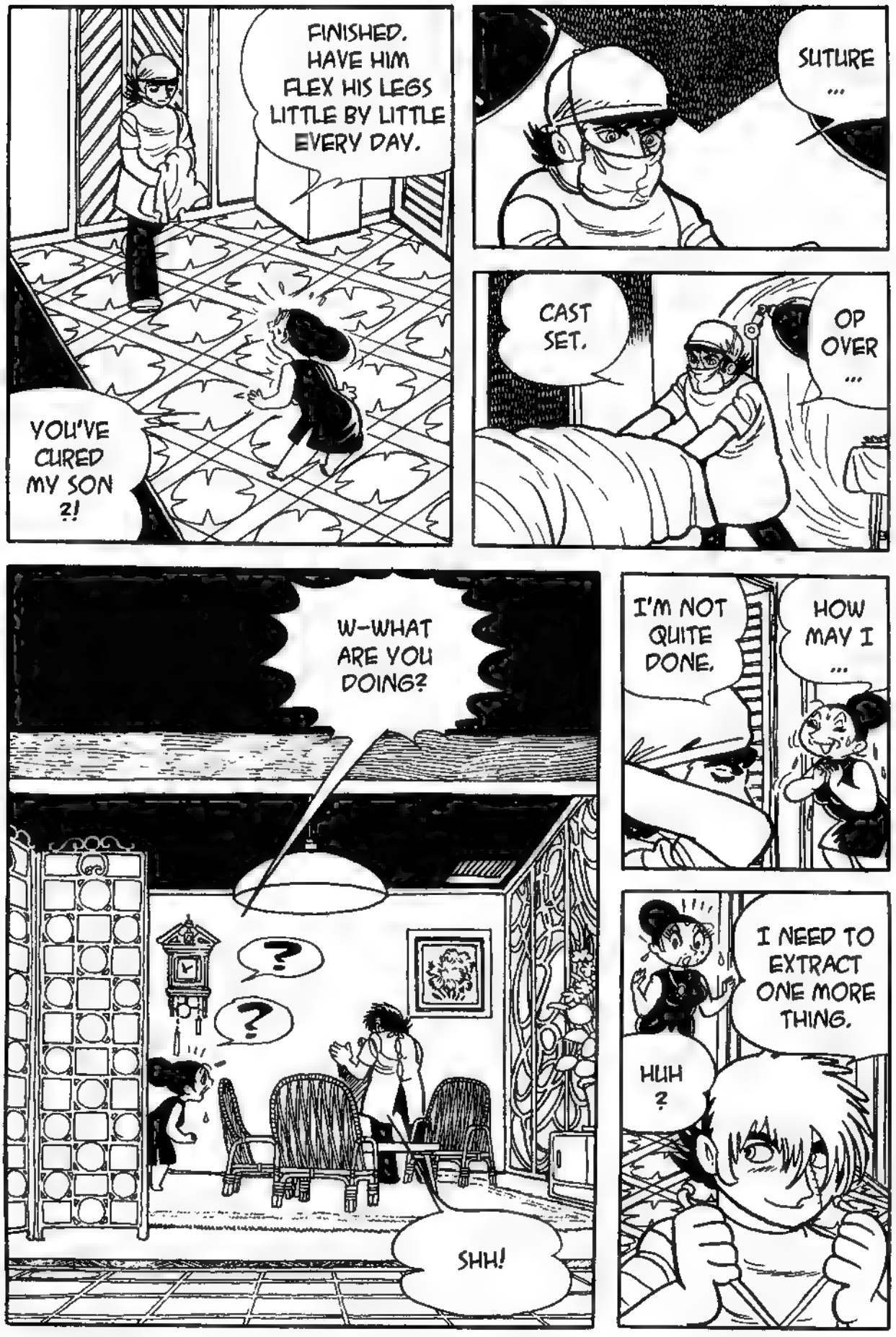


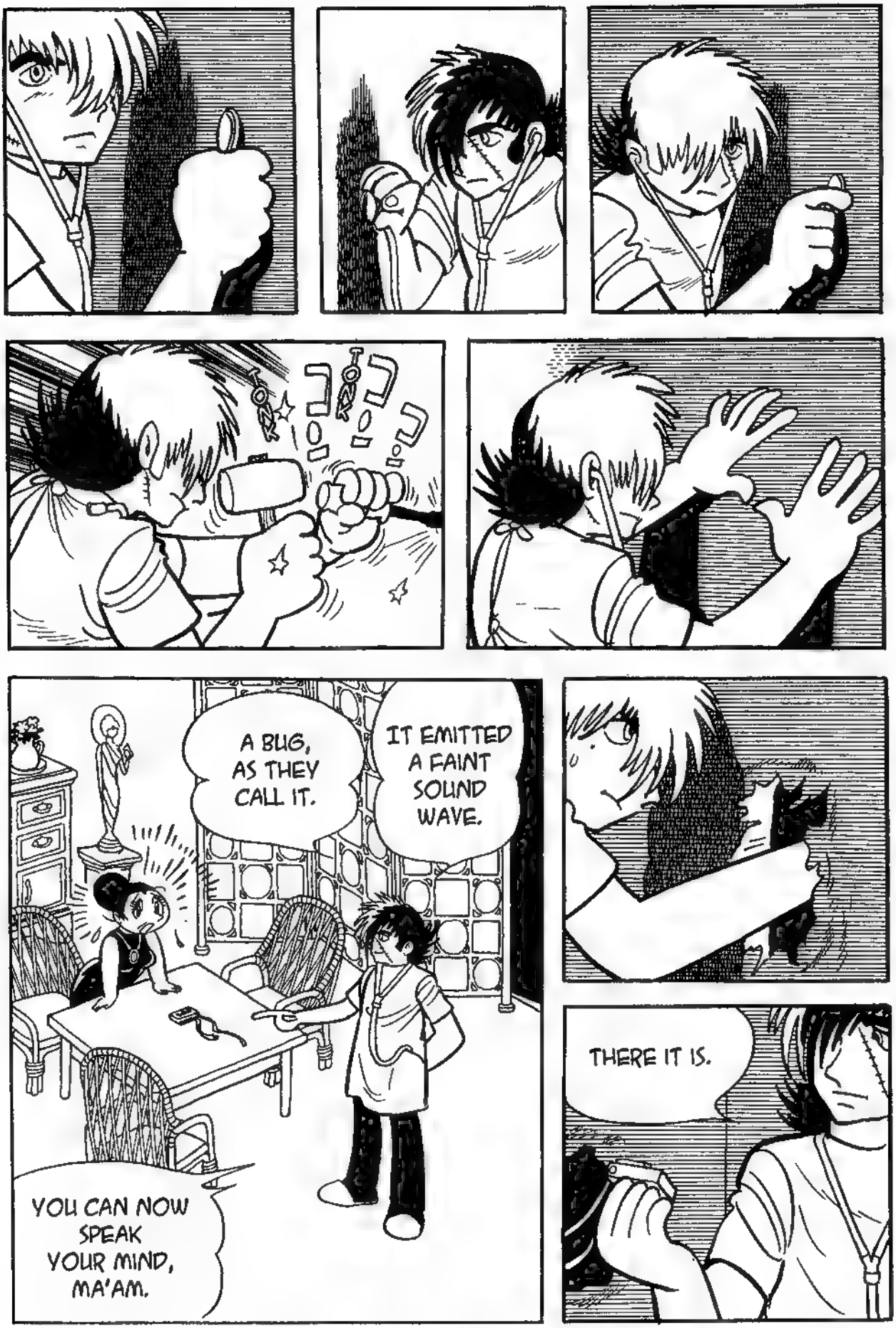



I'VE HAD ENOUGH, MA'AM!!
YOU MADE THE PATIENT MOVE AGAIN!!
I'D PUNCH YOUR FACE.
IF YOU WERE A MAN,
WHAT A MOM.
WHICH IS IT? DO YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR SON OR HURT HIM?
OH, THAT FAMILY? THE FATHER WAS A RESPECTED SCHOLAR.
EPI-DURAL OUGHT TO DO.
NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OPERATE.
HOTEL
EVER SINCE, THEY'RE BEING WATCHED.
HE OPPOSED THE WAR AND WAS ARRESTED.
ACK! ERR...
BEING WATCHED LIKE HOW?

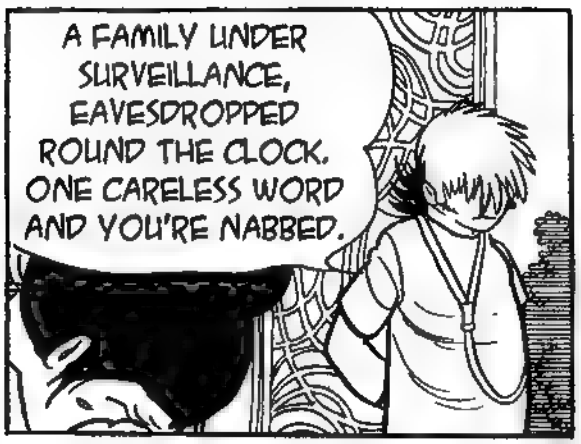

I THINK I'M FINE.
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
WHAT CAN I SAY.
PROCURING THE SURGICAL EQUIPMENT COST ME.
BARBITAL, THEN FLUOTHANE.
MEDIAN INCISION!

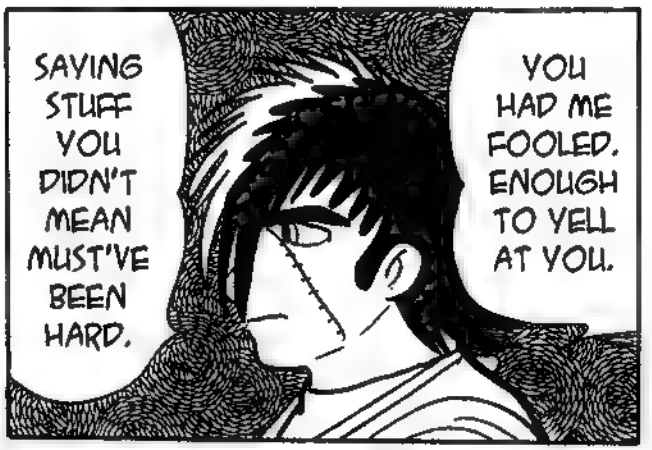

FSK
EXCISE GENEROUSLY ...
THERE, THE NEST OF HERNIA.
CAN'T HELP THE BLOOD LOSS.
DOP


FINISHED. HAVE HIM FLEX HIS LEGS LITTLE BY LITTLE EVERY DAY.
YOU'VE CURED MY SON ?!
SUTURE ...
CAST SET.
OP OVER ...
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
?
?
SHH!
I'M NOT QUITE DONE.
HOW MAY I ...
I NEED TO EXTRACT ONE MORE THING.
HUH ?


A BUG, AS THEY CALL IT.
IT EMITTED A FAINT SOUND WAVE.
YOU CAN NOW SPEAK YOUR MIND, MA'AM.
THERE IT IS.


WEEP


A FAMILY UNDER SURVEILLANCE, EAVESDROPPED ROUND THE CLOCK. ONE CARELESS WORD AND YOU'RE NABBED.

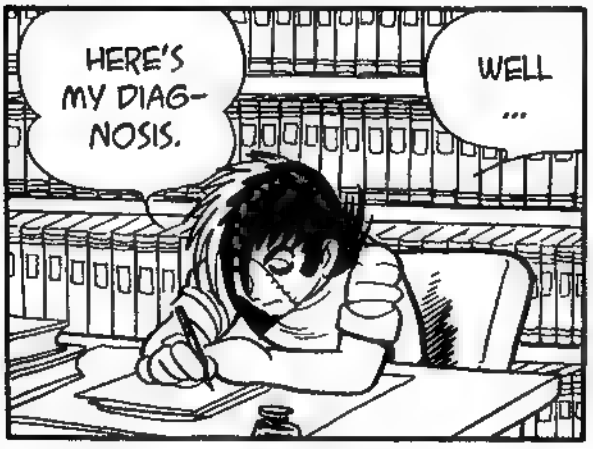

SAYING STUFF YOU DIDN'T MEAN MUST'VE BEEN HARD.
YOU HAD ME FOOLED. ENOUGH TO YELL AT YOU.


YOU FORCED YOUR SON TO WALK ...

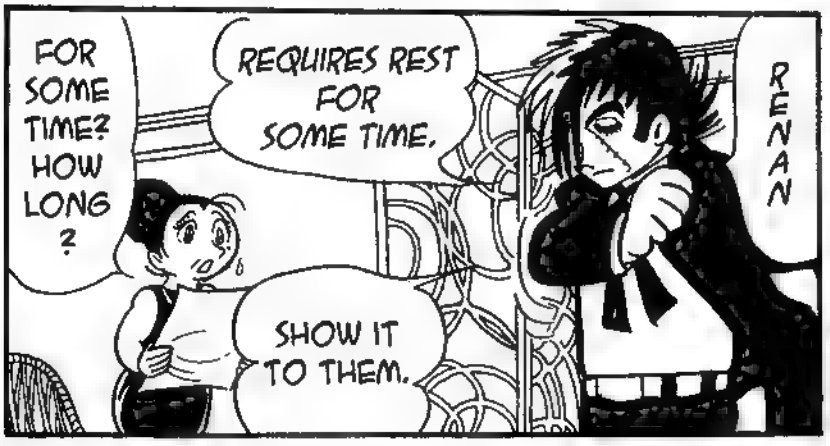

SO THAT HE CAN STAY OUT OF THE WAR!
TO PROLONG HIS ILLNESS!


YOU ACTED LIKE YOU WANTED YOUR SON TO FIGHT.
YOU PUT ON A SHOW OF BEING A PATRIOT.
IT WAS ALL TO FOOL THE POLICE.


IF YOU'D SAID ANYTHING AT THE HOTEL...
I DARED NOT CONFIDE IN YOU, EVEN.
DOCTOR, I'M VERY SORRY.

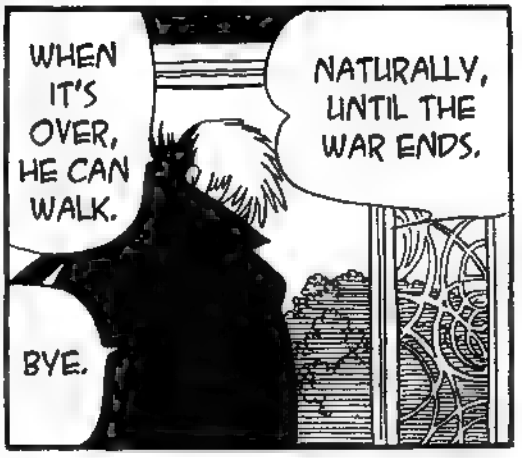

HERE'S MY DIAG-NOSIS.
WELL ...

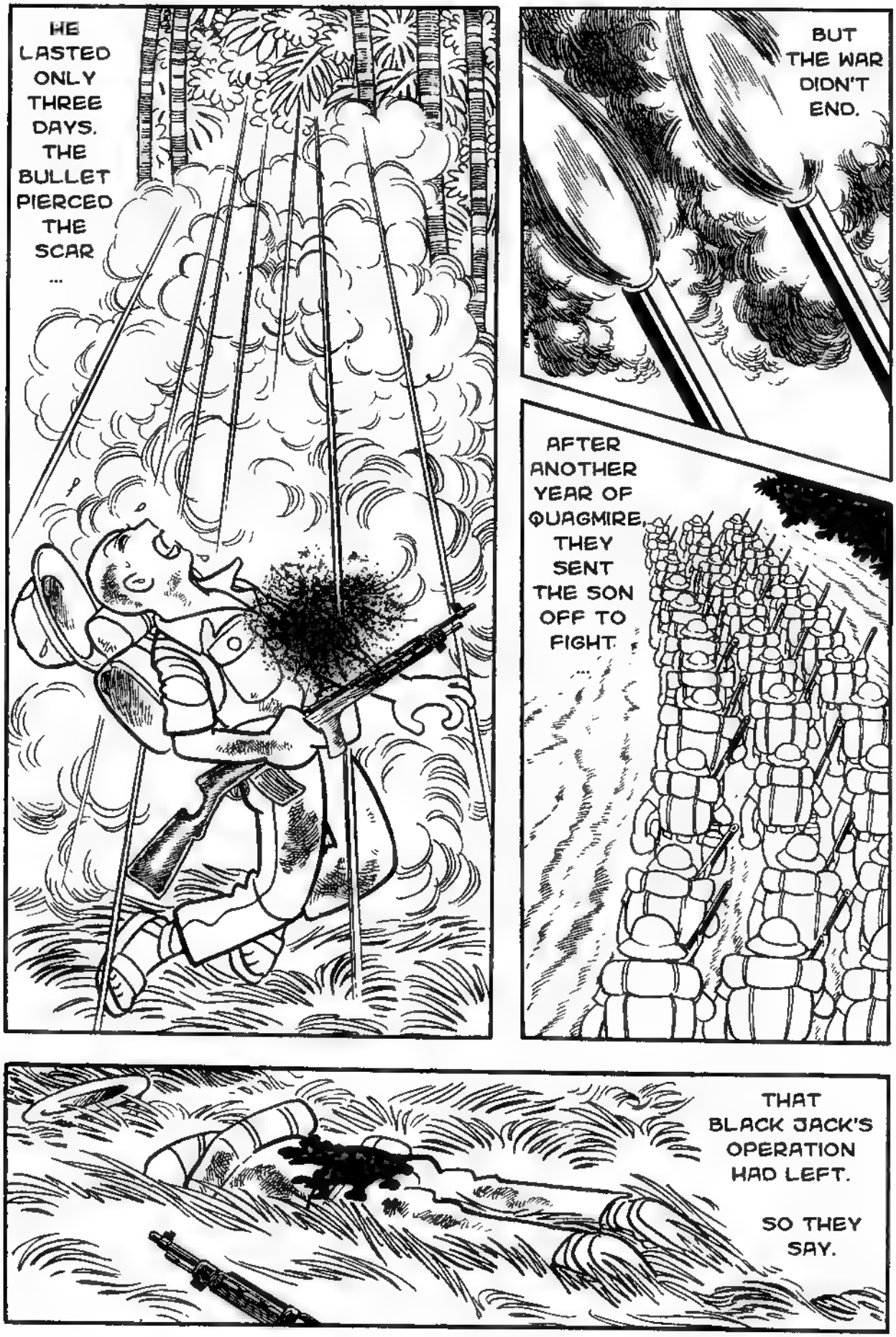

YOU'D TOLD ME. I DON'T GO BLABBING ABOUT MY WORK.
I WISH ...


FOR SOME TIME? HOW LONG ?
REQUIRES REST FOR SOME TIME.
RENAN
SHOW IT TO THEM.

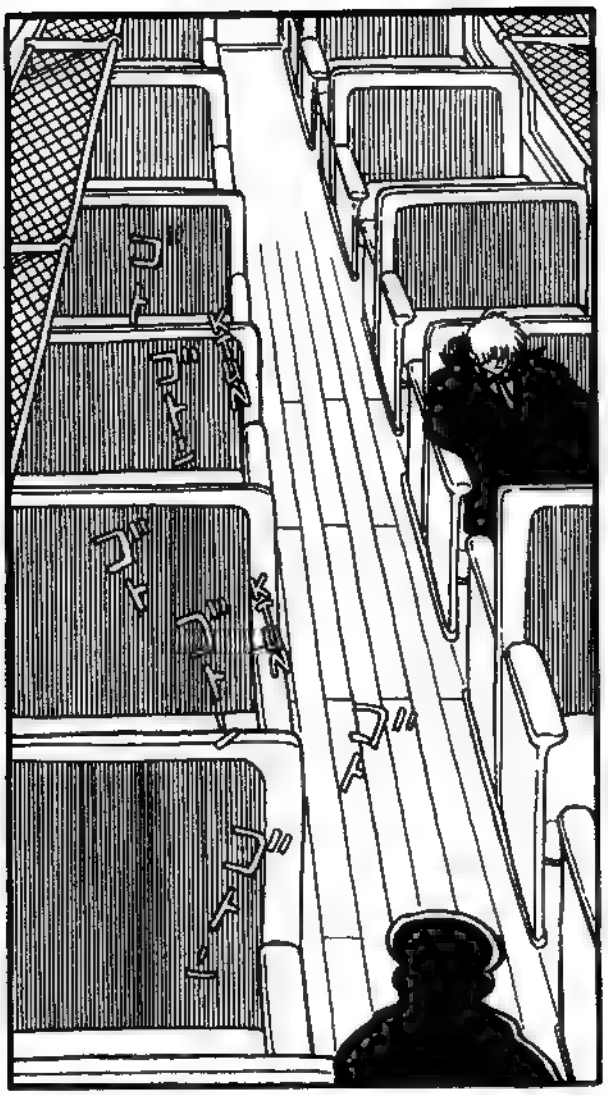


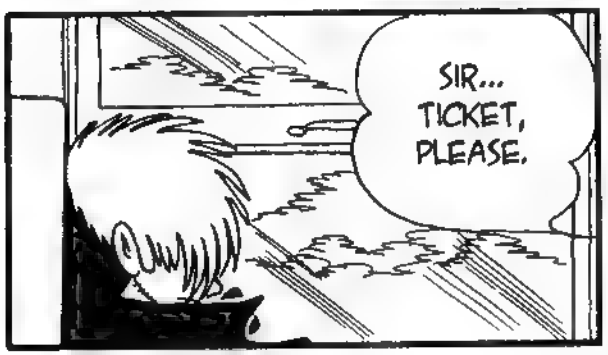


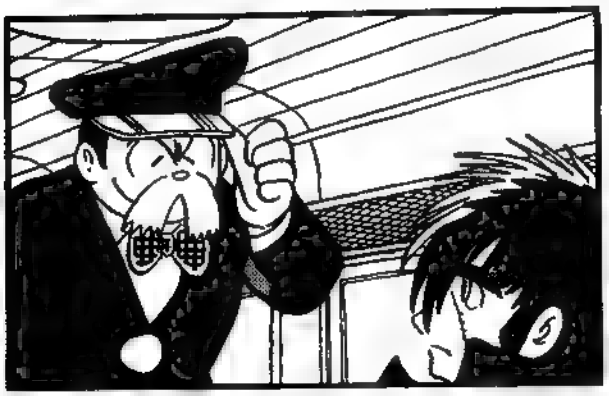

WHEN IT'S OVER, HE CAN WALK.
NATURALLY, UNTIL THE WAR ENDS.
BYE.

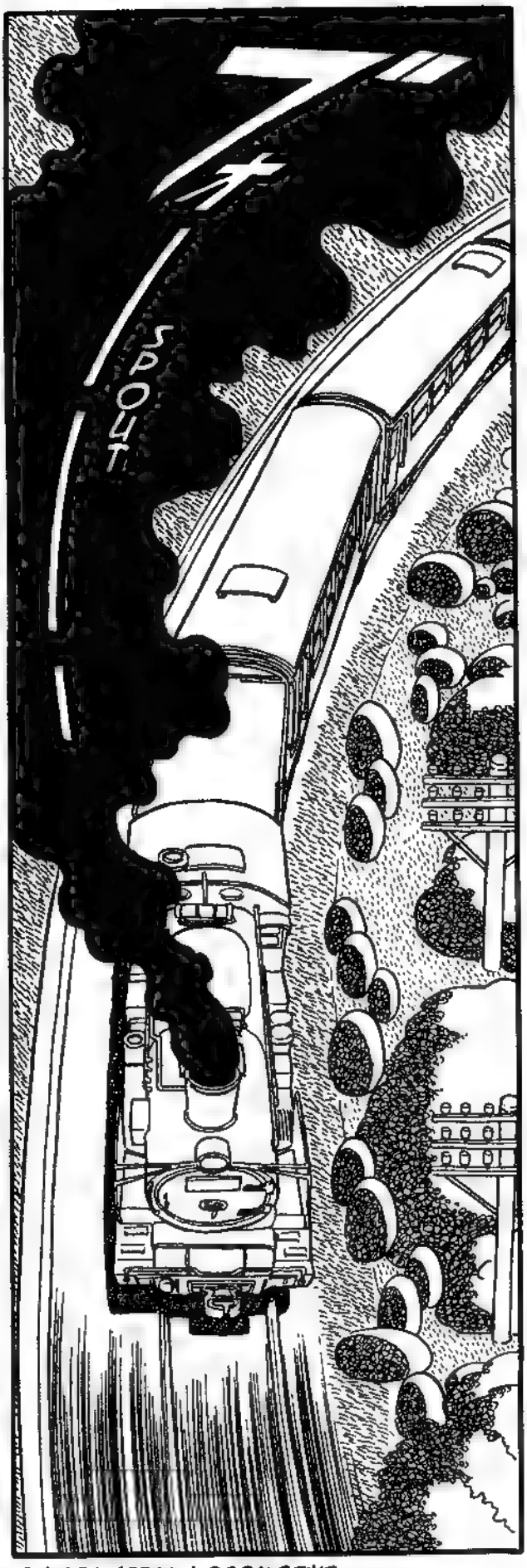

HE LASTED ONLY THREE DAYS. THE BULLET PIERCED THE SCAR ...
BUT THE WAR DIDN'T END.
AFTER ANOTHER YEAR OF QUAGMIRE, THEY SENT THE SON OFF TO FIGHT ...
THAT BLACK JACK'S OPERATION HAD LEFT.
SO THEY SAY.

THE SL CALLED LIFE

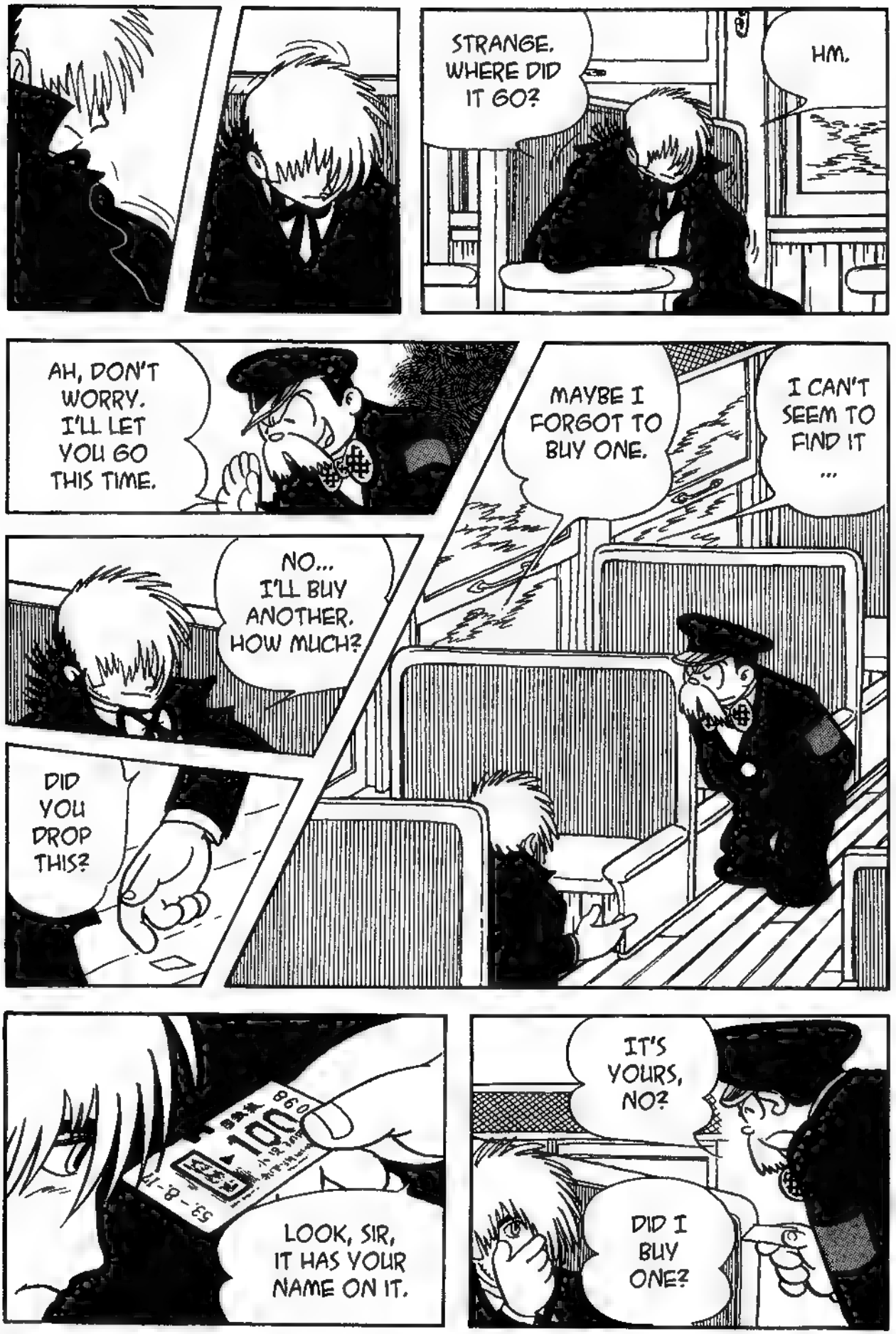




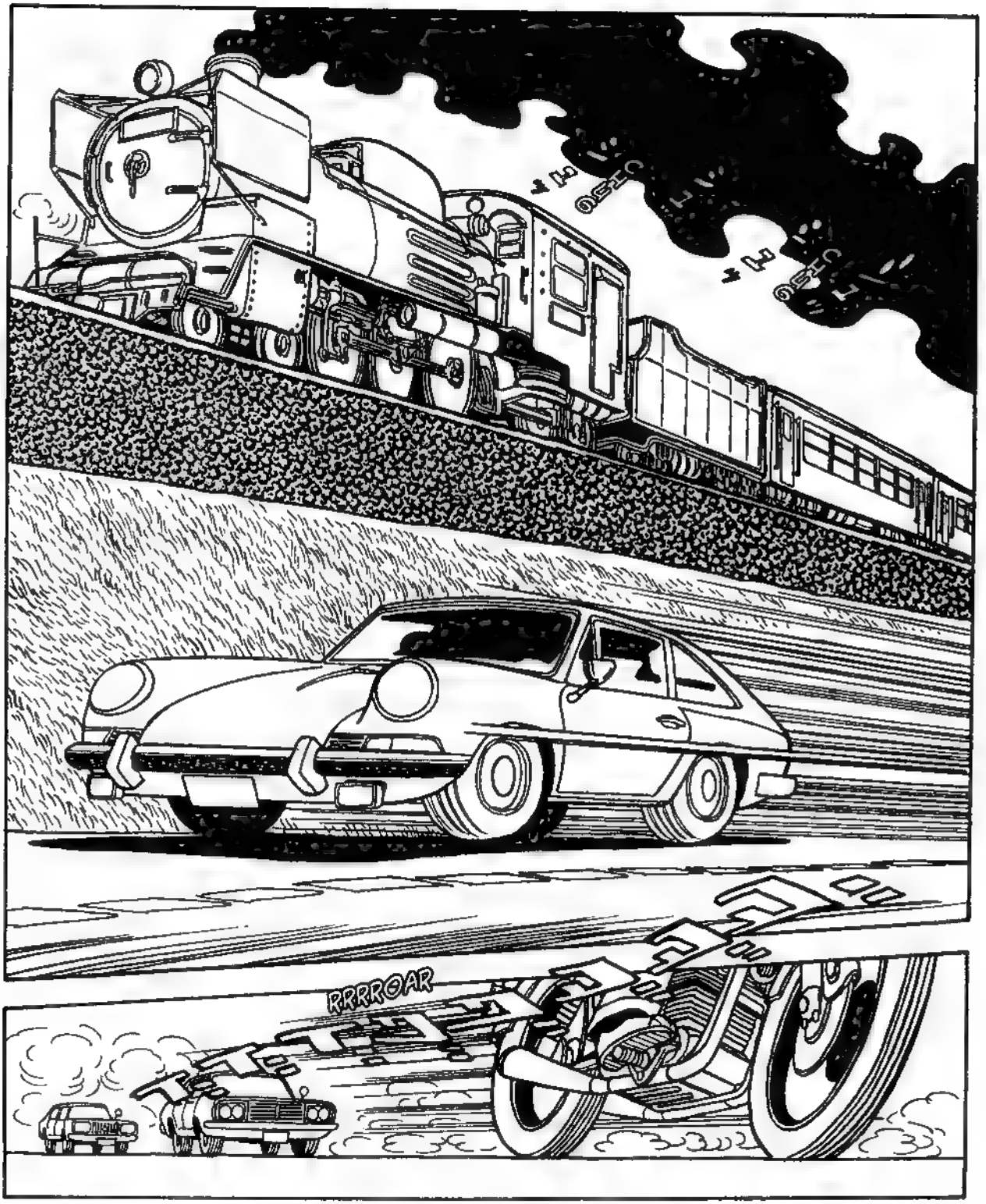




NOTE: "SL" = A COMMON JAPANESE ABBREVIATION FOR *STEAM LOCOMOTIVE*

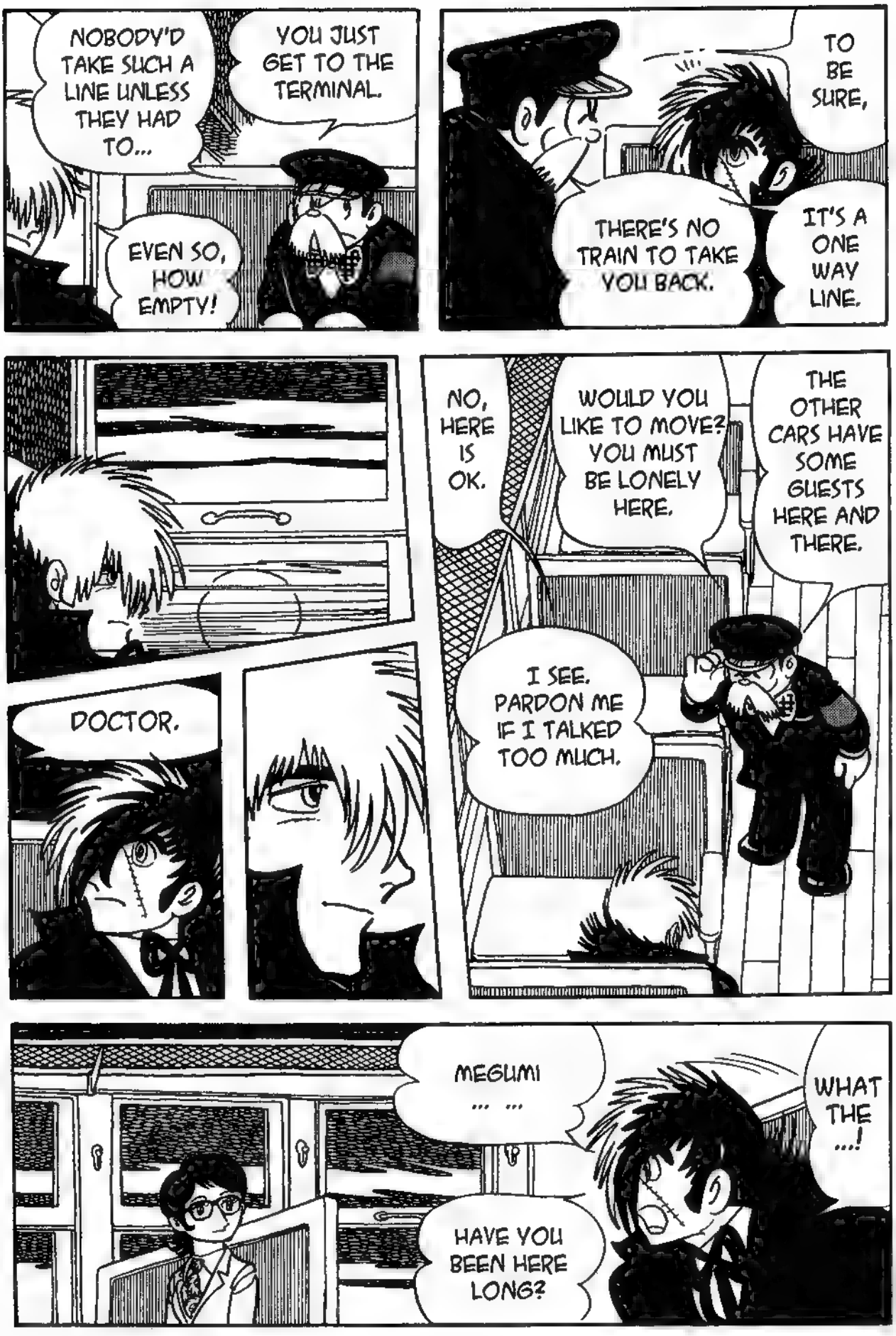

STRANGE. WHERE DID IT GO?
HM.
I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND IT ...
MAYBE I FORGOT TO BUY ONE.
AH, DON'T WORRY. I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME.
NO... I'LL BUY ANOTHER. HOW MUCH?
DID YOU DROP THIS?
LOOK, SIR, IT HAS YOUR NAME ON IT.
IT'S YOURS, NO?
DID I BUY ONE?


MAY I SIT?
NOT MUCH TO DO ...
...
MUST BE MINE.
IT IS. IT'S YOUR SPECIAL TICKET.
YES, IN SEN-DAI...
AND SHIN-JUKU.
I WAS A PICK-POCKET THEN.
CONDUCTOR, TELL ME...
HAVE I MET YOU BEFORE ?
IS THAT RIGHT?
SAY,
THIS LINE IS KINDA EMPTY.
ALWAYS IS.
ALWAYS ?
AN EXPRESS-WAY
GOT BUILT ALONG IT. SEE YOUNG FOLK SPEED PAST.
THE LINE'S DEEP IN THE RED.


R.R.R.R.OAR

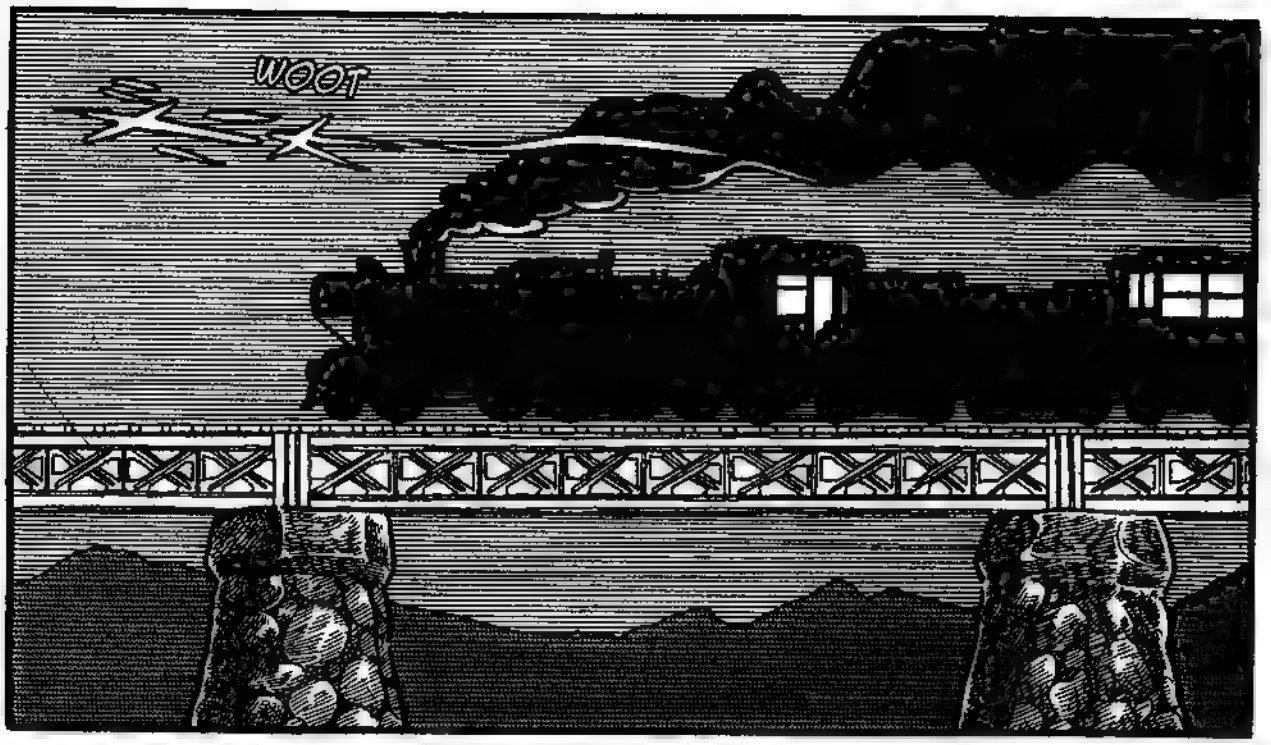

THEY CRAVE FUN. GETTING ON BOARD ISN'T MUCH FUN. LOCOMOTIVES ARE SLOW AND TIRING TO RIDE.
THE FANS, SIR?

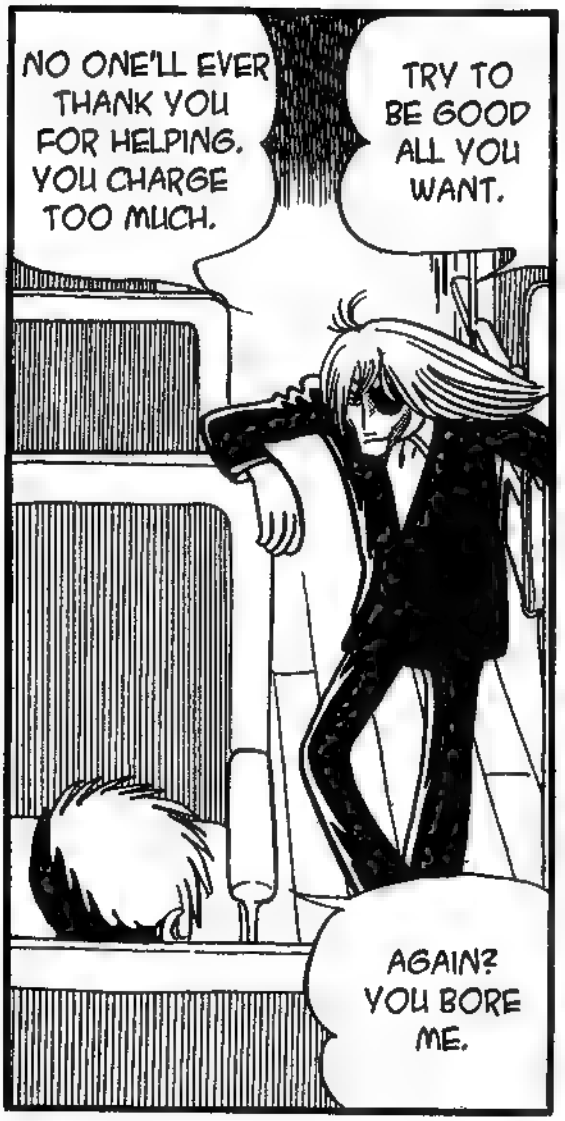

DON'T THE FANS WANT TO RIDE?
ISN'T THERE AN SL FAD?


NOBODY'D TAKE SUCH A LINE UNLESS THEY HAD TO...
YOU JUST GET TO THE TERMINAL.
EVEN SO, HOW EMPTY!
TO BE SURE,
IT'S A ONE WAY LINE.
THERE'S NO TRAIN TO TAKE YOU BACK.
DOCTOR.
NO, HERE IS OK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MOVE? YOU MUST BE LONELY HERE.
THE OTHER CARS HAVE SOME GUESTS HERE AND THERE.
I SEE. PARDON ME IF I TALKED TOO MUCH.
MEGUMI ... ...
WHAT THE ...!
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE LONG?


JUST BY FLUKE.
WHY'RE YOU ON THIS TRAIN?
I MEAN, DR. KISA-RAGI!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU WERE ON IT.
I WAS IN A DIFFERENT COMPARTMENT, BUT I HEARD
TAKE A SEAT...
YOU'D RIDE AN SL TRAIN TO VISIT SOME REMOTE PATIENT?
EVEN IN THIS HEAT, DOCTOR,
HAVEN'T YOU EARNED AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION? TAKE A NICE VACATION FOR A CHANGE!
THAT'S TRUE ...
YOU CHOSE TO BECOME A SHIP'S DOCTOR YOURSELF.
LIFE IS ODD.
HEH... I DON'T CARE FOR THAT.
THIS IS MY WAY.


I'M ... HAPPY I QUIT BEING A WOMAN ...
AS THEY REALLY ARE.
THANKS TO SAILORS AND PORT TOWNS, DOCTOR, I TOO HAVE SEEN HUMANS— IF ONLY A HUNDREDTH COMPARED TO YOU—
DOCTOR, I WISH YOU HAPPINESS.
ONE THING NEVER CHANGED ...
AS A WOMAN I'D HAVE HAD ONLY ONE VIEW ON LIFE.
I NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU.
...


WOOT

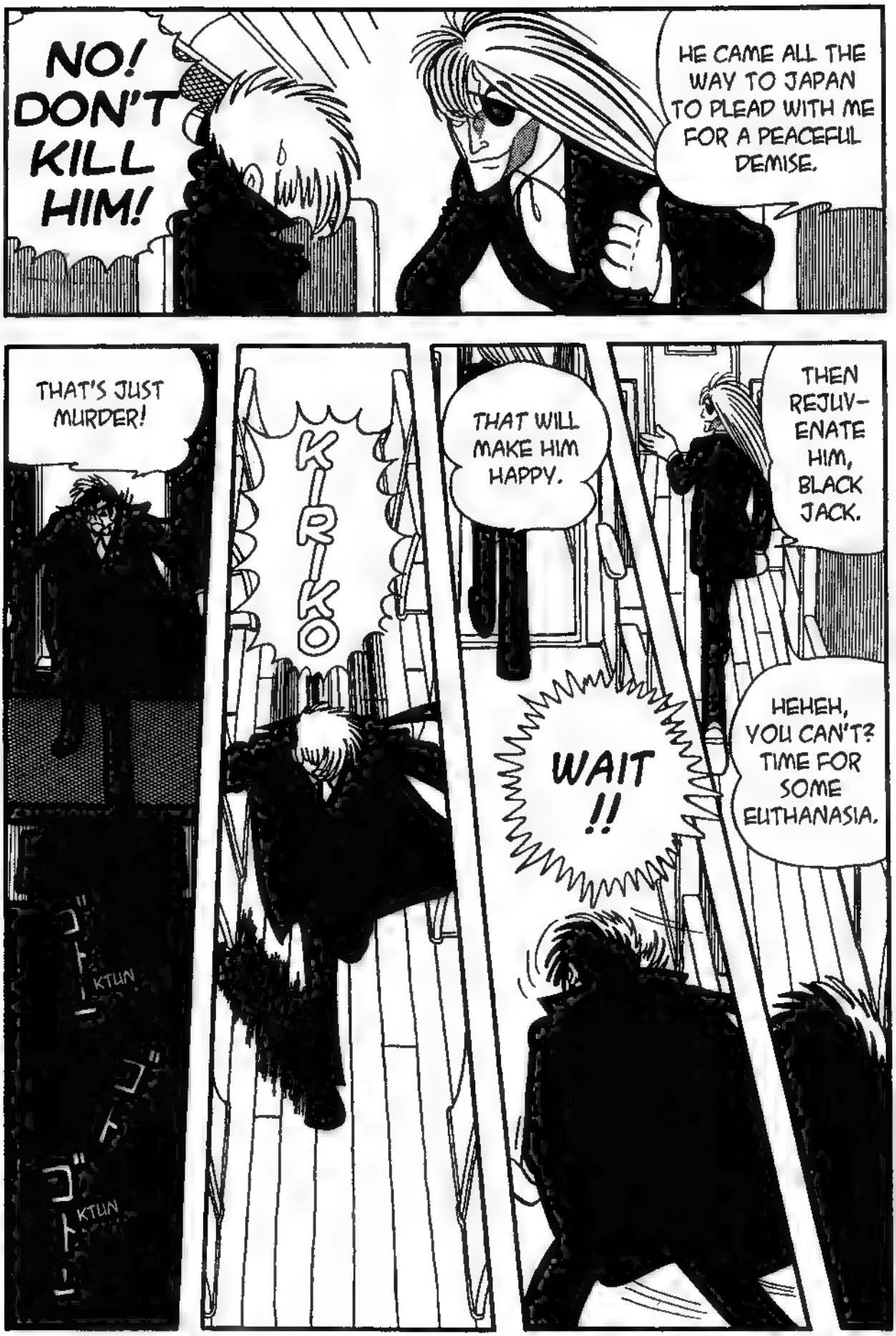

NO ONE'LL EVER THANK YOU FOR HELPING. YOU CHARGE TOO MUCH.
TRY TO BE GOOD ALL YOU WANT.
AGAIN? YOU BORE ME.

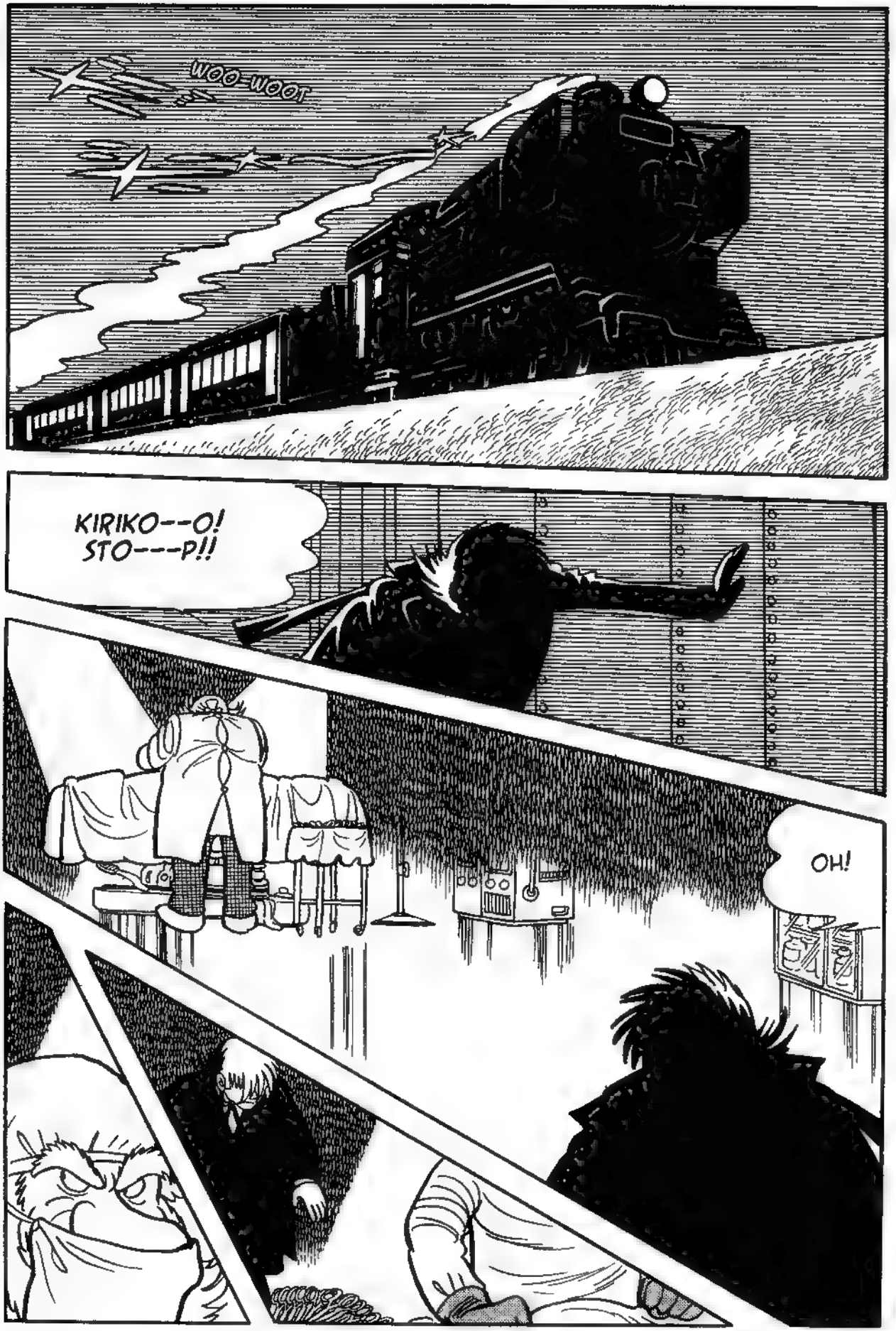

STILL ACTING THE GOOD GUY. SHOWOFF!

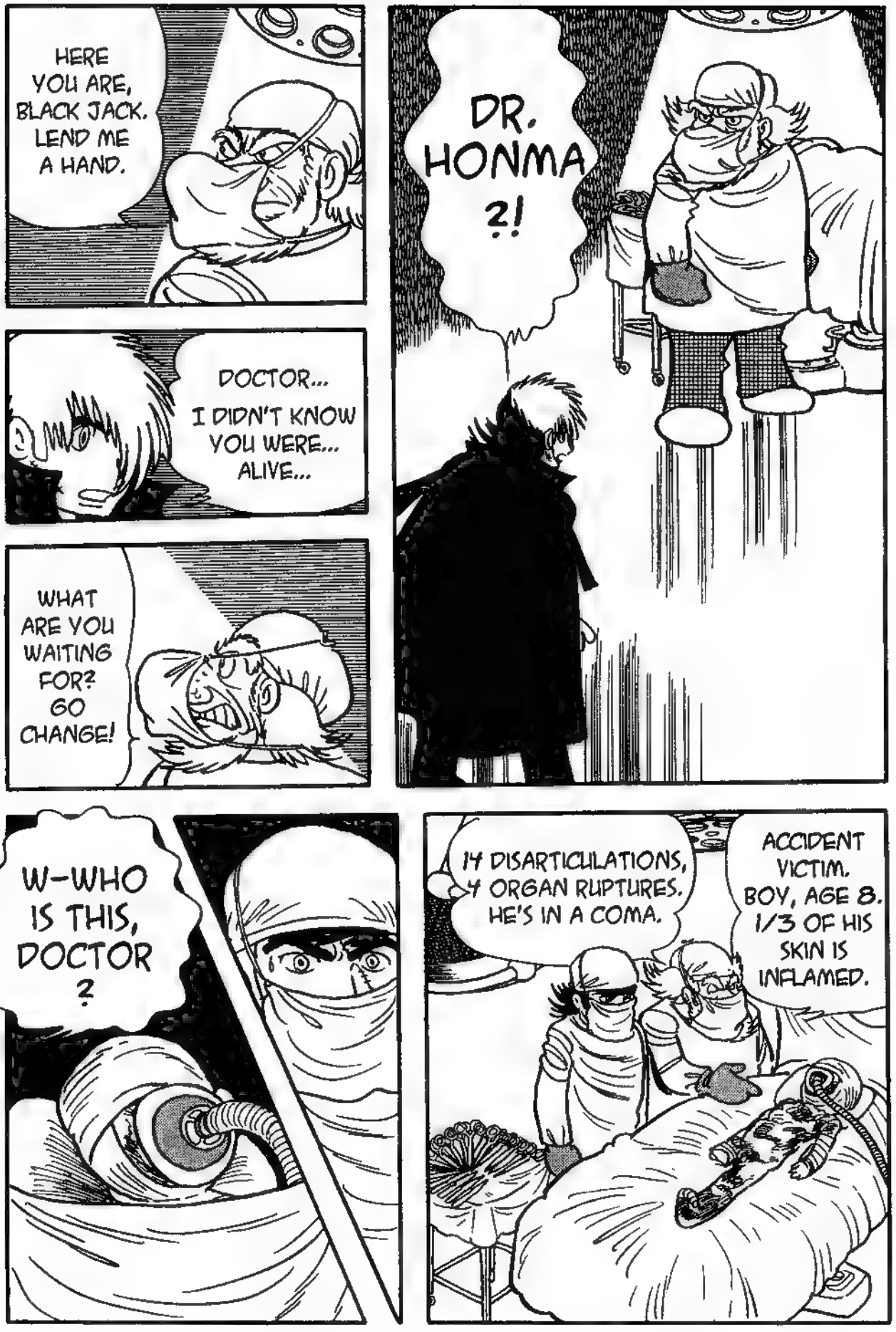

DOCTOR KIRIKO! YOU WERE ON IT TOO?
WHO'RE YOU OUT TO SLICE OR PATCH UP WITH YOUR MIRACLE ARM THIS TIME?
YOU GET AN "A" FOR EFFORT.


LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING, THEN. MAKE THAT SOMEONE.
A THAI ELDER OF THE MIKCHA CLAN. HE'S 182 YEARS OLD.
THIS OLD FELLOW HAD THREE BIG OPS IN PARIS, PLUS TWO EACH IN LONDON AND NEW YORK, TO PROLONG HIS LIFE.


LOOKS THAT WAY.
HEART, STOMACH, LIVER, KIDNEY, LUNG, SPINE, LIMB. NOT ONE PART THAT HASN'T BEEN CUT INTO.
THE WITHERED HUSK CAN'T SEE, SPEAK, OR SUPPORT HIS BODY.
FOR WHAT?
AND HE'S SURVIVED UNTIL THIS DAY WILLY-NILLY.
UH UH!
SURE, MEDICINE MAY PROLONG A LIFE, BUT IT CAN'T HALT AGING, CAN IT?
NOW HE'S BEGGING ME TO PUT AN END TO IT.
UHH... NGH...
THE PAIN OF IT GIVES RISE TO A HANKERING FOR DEATH.
OHHH... DAA...DAA... BAHH...


NO! DON'T KILL HIM!
HE CAME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN TO PLEAD WITH ME FOR A PEACEFUL DEMISE.
THAT'S JUST MURDER!
KTUN
KTUN
KRIKO
THAT WILL MAKE HIM HAPPY.
WAIT !!
THEN REJUV-ENATE HIM, BLACK JACK.
HEHEH, YOU CAN'T? TIME FOR SOME EUTHANASIA.


WOO-WOOT
KIRIKO--O!
STO---P!!
OH!

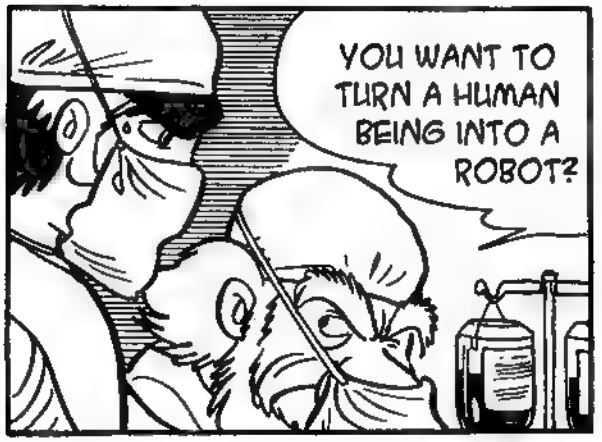

HERE YOU ARE, BLACK JACK. LEND ME A HAND.
DR. HONMA ?!
DOCTOR... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE... ALIVE...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO CHANGE!
W-WHO IS THIS, DOCTOR ?
14 DISARTICULATIONS, 4 ORGAN RUPTURES. HE'S IN A COMA.
ACCIDENT VICTIM. BOY, AGE 8. 1/3 OF HIS SKIN IS INFLAMED.

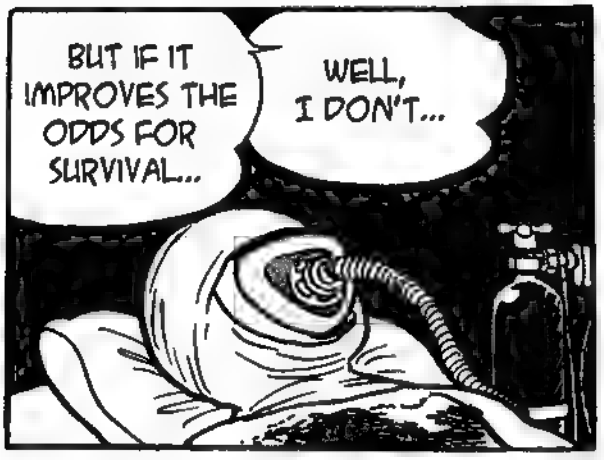

ME AS A BOY! IT HAS TO BE.
ISN'T... ISN'T THIS ME?

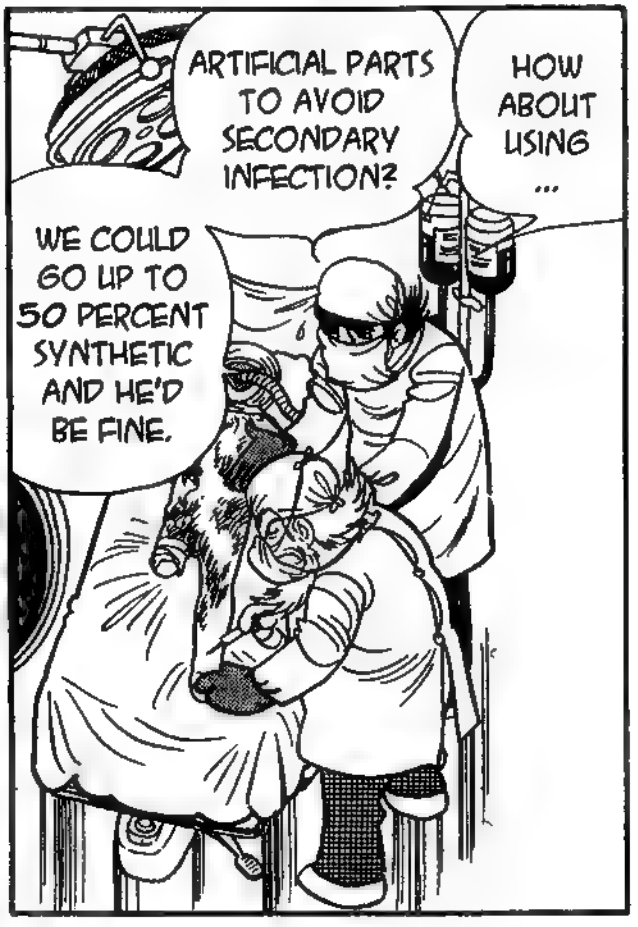

OK
YOU DO HIS SKIN.

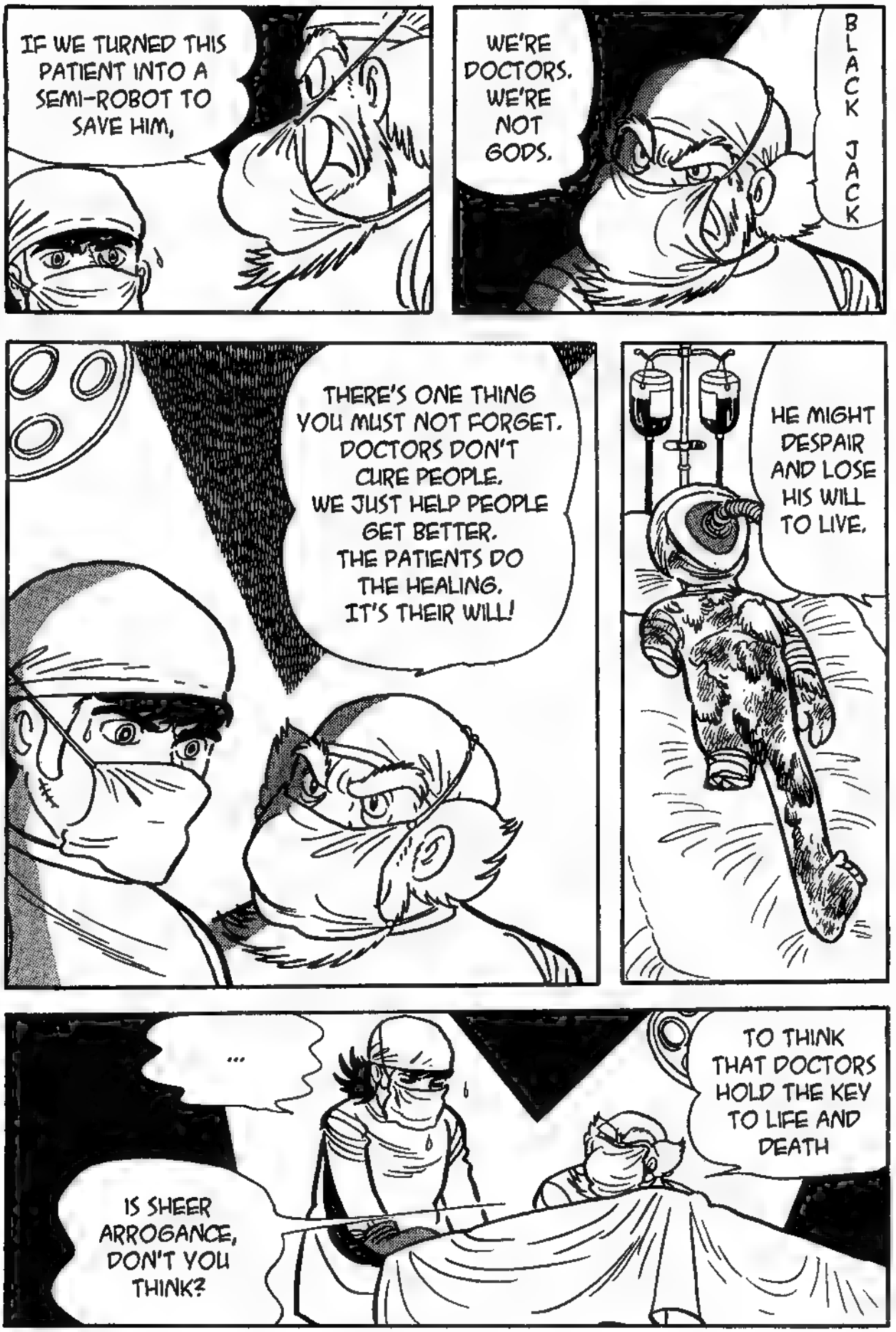

Y...
YES ...


HE'LL NEED SKIN TRANS-PLANTS. LOWER LEFT ARM AND ENTIRE RIGHT LEG.

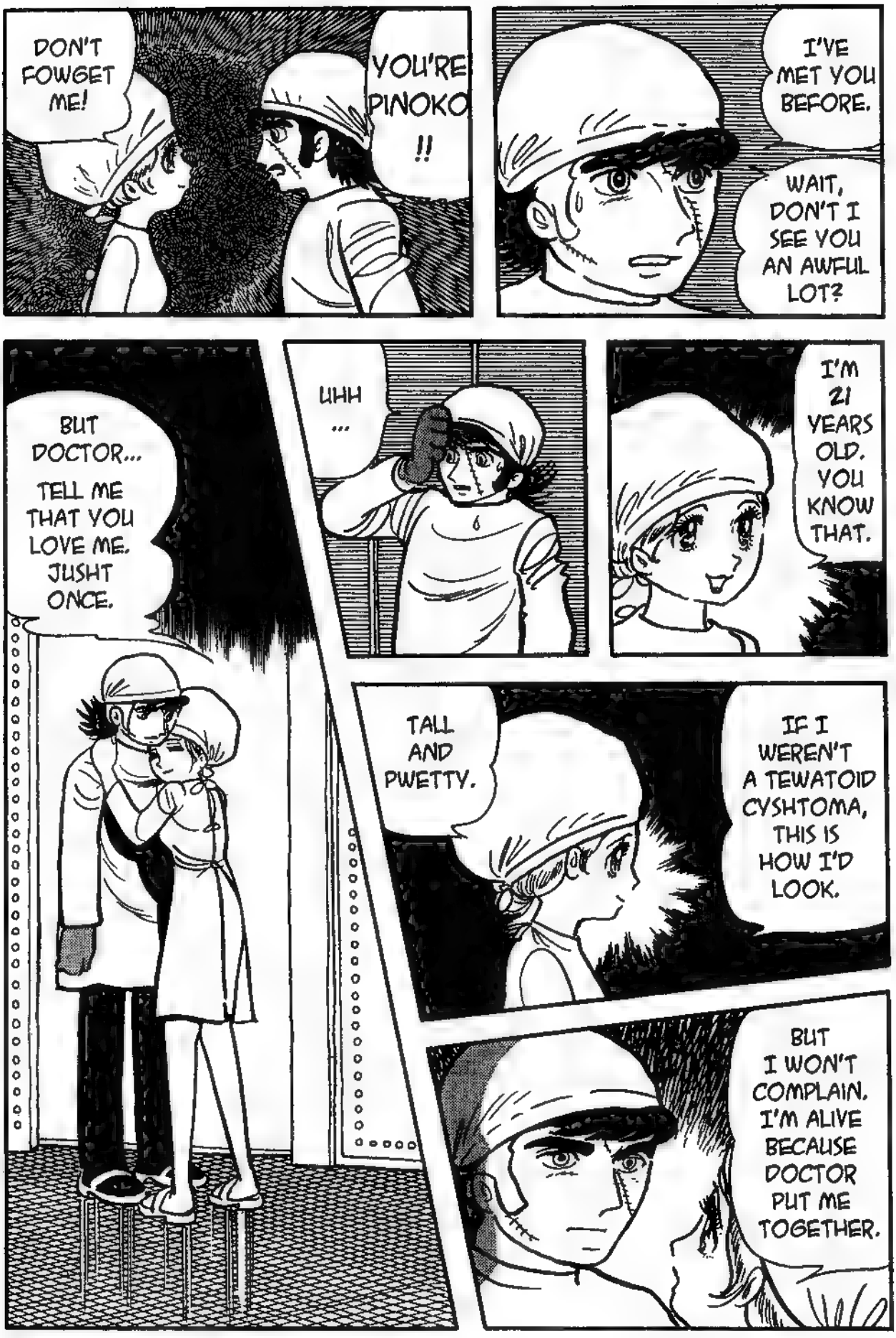

YOU WANT TO TURN A HUMAN BEING INTO A ROBOT?

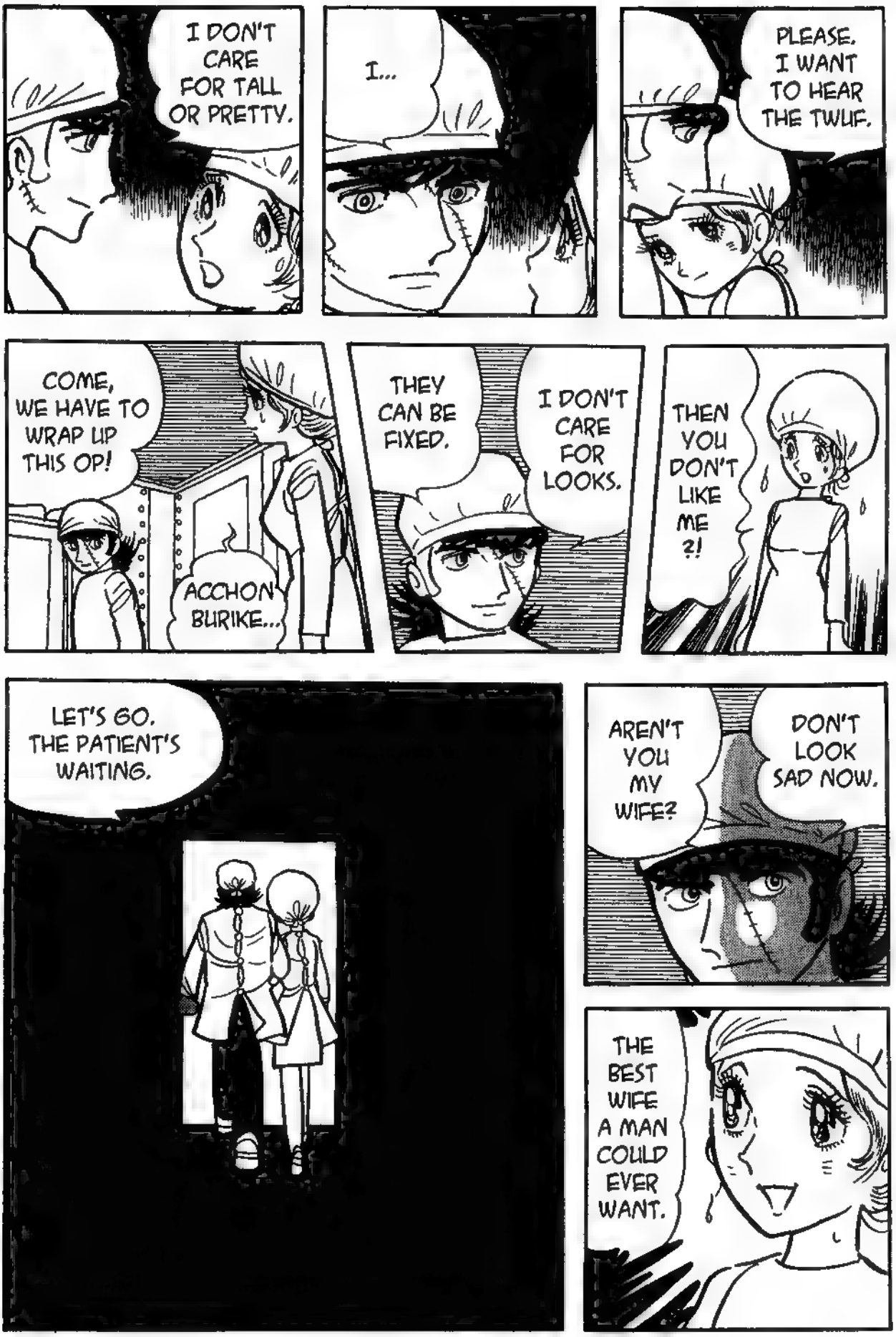

BUT IF IT IMPROVES THE ODDS FOR SURVIVAL...
WELL, I DON'T...


ARTIFICIAL PARTS TO AVOID SECONDARY INFECTION?
HOW ABOUT USING ...
WE COULD GO UP TO 50 PERCENT SYNTHETIC AND HE'D BE FINE.


IF WE TURNED THIS PATIENT INTO A SEMI-ROBOT TO SAVE HIM,
WE'RE DOCTORS. WE'RE NOT GODS.
BLACK JACK
THERE'S ONE THING YOU MUST NOT FORGET. DOCTORS DON'T CURE PEOPLE. WE JUST HELP PEOPLE GET BETTER. THE PATIENTS DO THE HEALING. IT'S THEIR WILL!
HE MIGHT DESPAIR AND LOSE HIS WILL TO LIVE.
...
TO THINK THAT DOCTORS HOLD THE KEY TO LIFE AND DEATH
IS SHEER ARROGANCE, DON'T YOU THINK?

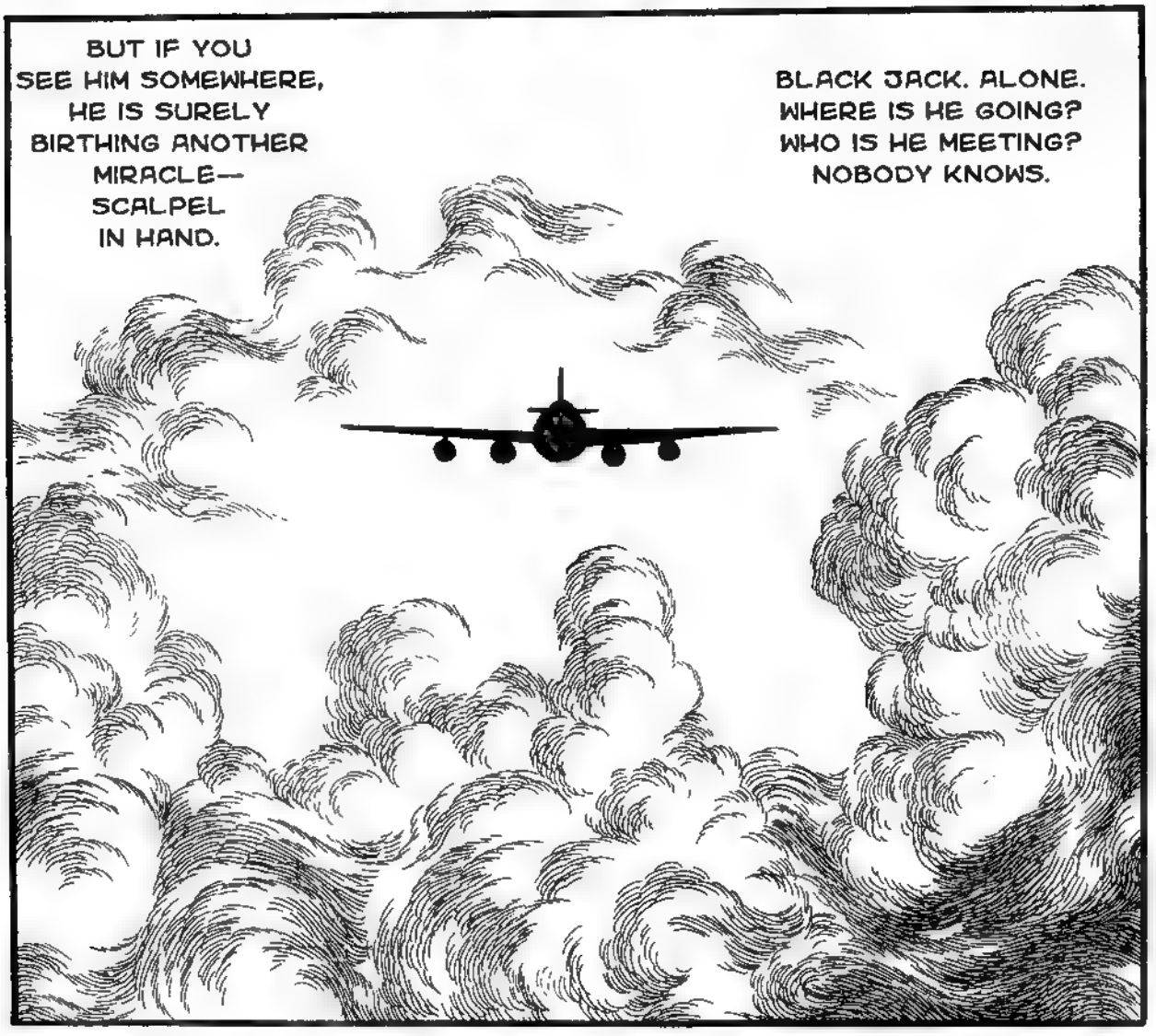

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE ?
DOCTOR HONMA?
DR. HONMA !!
DOCTOR HONMA!
HE LEFT. HE SHAID YOU CAN HANDLE THE WEST.
HAVE YOU FOWGOTTEN ME?
I'M YOUR ASHISHTANT !
WHAT ?!
AND WHO ARE YOU?


DON'T FOWGET ME!
YOU'RE PINOKO !!
I'VE MET YOU BEFORE.
WAIT, DON'T I SEE YOU AN AWFUL LOT?
UHH ...
I'M 21 YEARS OLD. YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT DOCTOR... TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME. JUSHT ONCE.
TALL AND PWETTY.
IF I WEREN'T A TEWATOID CVSHTOMA, THIS IS HOW I'D LOOK.
BUT I WON'T COMPLAIN. I'M ALIVE BECAUSE DOCTOR PUT ME TOGETHER.


I DON'T CARE FOR TALL OR PRETTY.
I...
PLEASE. I WANT TO HEAR THE TWUE.
COME, WE HAVE TO WRAP UP THIS OP!
ACCHON BURIKE...
THEY CAN BE FIXED.
I DON'T CARE FOR LOOKS.
THEN YOU DON'T LIKE ME ?!
LET'S GO. THE PATIENT'S WAITING.
AREN'T YOU MY WIFE?
DON'T LOOK SAD NOW.
THE BEST WIFE A MAN COULD EVER WANT.


I DOZED OFF.
WHAT A WEIRD DREAM...
HUH?


WHAT WAS THAT SL OF MY DREAM ABOUT?
WEIRD DREAM... THEY SAY PEOPLE DREAM A LOT ABOUT THE PAST JUST BEFORE THEY DIE...


BUT IF YOU SEE HIM SOMEWHERE, HE IS SURELY BIRTHING ANOTHER MIRACLE— SCALPEL IN HAND.
BLACK JACK. ALONE. WHERE IS HE GOING? WHO IS HE MEETING? NOBODY KNOWS.

A NOTE ON THIS SERIES

Black Jack was serialized in Akita Shoten's *Champion* from 1973 to 1978 on a weekly basis. "The SL Called Life," the last story in this volume, appeared in the Sept. 18, 1978 issue to conclude the run. But the goodness called BJ didn't end there.

Due to popular demand, additional stories were published irregularly for five more years—and we should be grateful, since these include indispensable entries such as "Yet False the Days" in the fifth volume and "Revenge Is My Life" and "Flesh and Blood" in the tenth. "A Question of Priorities," the last episode from 1983, can be found in the ninth volume; though it does not offer the sense of finality of "SL," you may recall it as a memorable tale fully fit for such a valedictory role.

Black Jack has been published in book form multiple times, beginning with Akita Shoten's 1974 edition. This translated collection follows, volume for volume, the hardcover edition that Akita launched in 1987 and whose pocket paperback (*bunko*) reissue remains the standard *Black Jack* found in most Japanese bookstores.

The 1987 edition was initially conceived as a best-of selection picked by Tezuka himself rather than as a complete collection. Its explosive success, however, dictated otherwise. New installments continued to come out roughly every other month up to the eleventh volume, which appeared in the summer of 1988. The fact that it ended with the "SL" episode and wasn't promptly followed up did not mean, however, that the hardcover edition had concluded its run.

Volume twelve, published later that year, became the last installment to appear before Tezuka's passing the next February. While the pace of release slowed significantly after that, the erstwhile best-of edition finally became a complete edition (save for a handful of "sealed" episodes that no collection has ever included due to "objectionable" content) when the seventeenth and last volume saw the light of day in 2004.

The same year, Akita began releasing a new edition of *Black Jack* that collects the episodes in the order they originally appeared—the first ever to do so. In other words, the publisher waited fully thirty years before adopting the "purist" or archival approach to the series; the Kodansha editions have not followed the order of serialization, either. This is because *Black Jack* began as a "horror manga" supposed to last just a few episodes, only becoming a series after it proved a major hit. Presented in the original order, the crucial first volume would not convey a sufficient sense of "human drama," as the series was rebranded later in its run.

Most international editions, including this one, likewise collect the episodes in an optimal rather than chronological order. We hope you enjoy the remaining installments as well.

—Editor

/// WRONG WAY! ///

Japanese books, including manga like this one, are meant to be read **from right to left.**

So the front cover is actually the back cover, and vice-versa.

To read this book, **please flip it over**
and start in the top right-hand corner. Read the panels,
and the bubbles in the panels, from right to left,
then drop down to the next row
and repeat.

It may make you dizzy at first,
but forcing your brain
to do things backwards
makes you smarter
in the long run.
We swear.



VERTICAL.